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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

If at first you deny, then deny, deny again

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford says a cash-for-crack-video allegation is an 'outright lie' PAGE 14

Stocking stuffers for everyone on your list

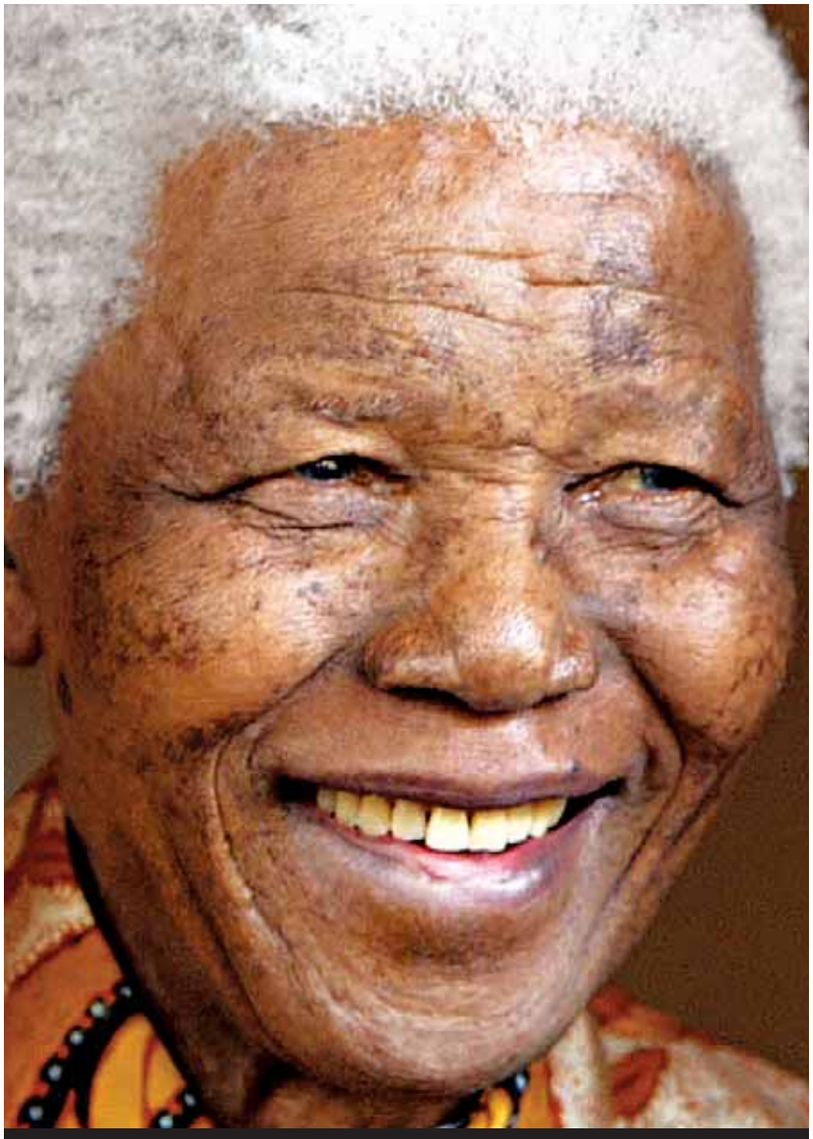
From book lovers to that special cat in your life, Metro's holiday gift guide has you covered PAGES 33-46

Gingerbread gets all grown up

The tasty holiday staple goes from loaf to torte with the addition of chocolate and almonds PAGE 31

WHERE'S HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK?

THE REEL GUYS TALK ABOUT THEIR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY MOVIES ... AND NOT ALL OF THEM ARE SO FEEL-GOOD PAGE 23



Former South African president and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Nelson Mandela is seen in 2005. Mandela died Thursday at age 95. GIANLUIGI GUERCIA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NELSON MANDELA: 1918-2013

In memoriam. Anti-apartheid icon left a powerful legacy

Nelson Mandela was a master of forgiveness.

South Africa's first black president spent nearly a third of his life as a prisoner of apartheid, yet he sought to win over its defeated guardians in a relatively peaceful transition of power that inspired the world.

As head of state, the former boxer, lawyer and inmate lunched with the prosecutor who argued successfully for his incarceration. He sang the apartheid-era Afrikaans anthem at his inauguration and travelled hundreds of miles to have tea with the widow of the prime minister in power at the time he was sent to prison.

It was this generosity of spirit that made Mandela, who died Thursday at the age of 95, a global symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation in a world often jarred by conflict and division. He was made an honorary Canadian citizen in 2001.

Mandela's death deprived the world of one of one of the great figures of modern history and set the stage for days of mourning and reflection about a colossus of the 20th century who projected astonishing grace, resolve and good humour.

Dressed in black, South African President Jacob Zuma made the announcement on television. He said Mandela died "peacefully," surrounded by family.

Thousands died or were tortured or imprisoned in the decades-long struggle against apartheid, which deprived the black majority of the vote, the right to choose where to live and travel, and other basic freedoms.

At times, Mandela embraced his iconic status. Sometimes he sought to downplay it, uneasy about the perils of being put on a pedestal. In an unpublished manuscript, written while in prison, Mandela acknowledged that leaders of the anti-apartheid movement dominated the spotlight but said they were "only part of the story," and every activist was "like a brick which makes up our organization."

Mandela pondered the cost to his family of his dedication to the fight against the racist system of government that jailed him for decades and refused him permission to attend the funeral of his mother and of a son who was killed in a car crash. As president, he could not forge lasting solutions to poverty, unemployment and other social ills that still plague today's South Africa, which has struggled to live up to its rosy depiction as the "Rainbow Nation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 3 & 22

Harper reacts

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who is expected to attend Mandela's funeral next week, said the world had lost one of its great moral leaders and statesmen, describing Mandela's forbearance as "legendary."

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Mandela 'unites all freedom-loving people'

'Few people can claim a better legacy.' Tributes pour in from across B.C. as the province joins the world in mourning an icon of peace and equality

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

In this Feb. 11, 1990, photo, Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie walk out of the Victor Verster prison near Cape Town, South Africa, after Mandela had spent 27 years in jail. GREG ENGLISH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Johannes Nonyane gasped as he learned of the death of Nelson Mandela.

"I feel like something big in my life has turned," he said over the phone, clearly emotional while at work at the UBC bookstore moments after learning of Mandela's passing, at age 95, Thursday.

Decades removed from his own struggle against apartheid in South Africa, time has done little to dull the Vancouver resident's memories of home or his admiration for the late former president.

"Mandela has been an icon for us way before anyone read headlines about him," said Nonyane, a former member of the United Democratic Front who came to Canada in the 1980s out of fear of imprisonment. "He is not a political figure, he is more of a father figure to us."

Nonyane said he grew up in a world "where we knew there was something seriously wrong with the system."

Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 after being convicted of treason.

He spent 27 years in prison, all the while advocating for an end to apartheid, until his release in 1990.

He became South Africa's first black president and one of the world's most iconic symbols of peace and equality.

Tributes from all over B.C. poured in as the news broke. "Largely because of him, South Africa's transition from apartheid to multiracial democracy was peaceful. It's easy to forget it could have been very different," said Premier Christy Clark in a statement. "Few people can claim a better legacy, or have made a more significant difference."

"In this Year of Reconciliation in the City of Vancouver, we owe a debt of gratitude to Nelson Mandela, whose example will live on in the hearts and minds of people all across the world," said Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson.

Nonyane, who co-founded the South African Cultural Association of British Columbia, feels Canadians share a special bond with Mandela, who was given honorary citizenship in 2001.

"It's a major loss for South Africa. But it's a major loss for Canadians too, who embraced him and what he stood for, and saw what is possible if you are dedicated to something," Nonyana said. "He unites all freedom-loving people."

His thoughts are now with South Africans.

"Honestly, it's going to be a big change. I'm very worried what may take place after his departure," said Nonyane. "I hope the country will build on what he started and what he left behind."

Rebecca Naidoo's thoughts also gravitated home.

"You want to be with your own people, on your own soil," said the co-chair of the Vancouver South African Film Festival, who calls Pretoria, South Africa, home. "There is a lot of sadness, but celebration too."

Naidoo said Mandela's death will put a spotlight — good and bad — on current issues facing South Africa.

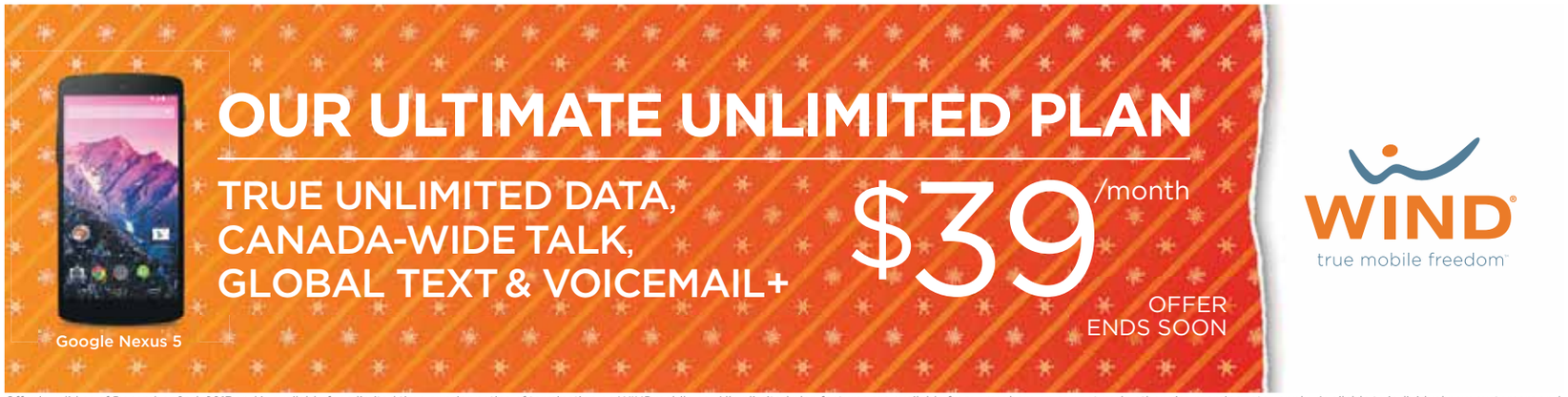
She hopes that attention can be harnessed for good, and not for political gain, as the country prepares for elections next year — which happen to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the first post-apartheid election that saw Mandela become president.

"As a nation, I hope we go forward and walk in Mandela's footsteps," she said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Remembering a hero

The South African Cultural Association of B.C. is planning a candlelight vigil outside the Vancouver Art Gallery, Friday from 5 to 8 p.m.



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Man accused of peeing on monument

Komagata Maru. Cops trying to determine if it was a hate crime or just a drunken accident

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Police are investigating a man who allegedly urinated on the Komagata Maru monument in Coal Harbour after trying to pick a fight with an Indian tourist and his friend on Monday.

The hate-crimes unit is reviewing the file, Sgt. Randy Fincham said Thursday.

"They need to speak with him to see if he was targeting the memorial or the South Asian community, or if it was something where he was intoxicated and wasn't aware," Fincham said.

Significance

The monument marks Canada's refusal to accept 356 people from Punjab who arrived by steamship in 1914, forcing the ship to return to India.

According to the Asian Journal, the man allegedly threw a soccer ball at the memorial and made threatening remarks to the tourist and his friend.

Regardless of the man's motivation, his behaviour was "not appropriate" and police will educate him on the significance of the memorial, Fincham said.

A man allegedly urinates on the Komagata Maru monument in Vancouver's Coal Harbour. COURTESY ASIAN JOURNAL

Sentence. Mountie gets probation for shooting man during traffic stop

A Vancouver Island Mountie found guilty of aggravated assault after shooting a man during a traffic stop has been sentenced to two years probation.

Nanaimo RCMP Const. David Pompeo will also have to serve 240 hours of community service within the next 18 months.

In a ruling Thursday, B.C. provincial court Judge Josiah Wood said the officer appeared to be a responsible member of the RCMP but showed poor judgment when he shot William Gillespie in 2009.

Wood noted that a more severe sentence, such as jail time or a firearms prohibition, would have caused Pompeo to lose his job.

Pompeo testified that he pulled Gillespie over in Chemainus, on southern Vancouver Island, for suspected drunk driving and driving while prohibited.

The officer said Gillespie made "blatant movements and gestures, making me believe he was armed."

Pompeo shot Gillespie in the shoulder.

Outrage

"I was hoping that he would get some sort of jail time, and I was hoping that he would never, ever get his gun back."
Victim William Gillespie

Gillespie told the court that the shot felt like he'd been hit by a freight train.

He testified he was even more surprised at being shot because the officer said nothing before firing his weapon.

"I remember lying on the ground," Gillespie said. "I remember blood gushing out all over my face. I remember tasting it. I remember choking on it."

Outside court on Thursday, Gillespie said he was disappointed with the sentence.

"I think it's a sad day for justice today and it's open season on our citizens," he told reporters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rural medicine

$100,000 just what the doctor ordered

A $100,000 cash incentive has convinced nine new doctors to take on jobs in rural B.C. The doctors will be serving in Terrace, Chetwynd, Bella Coola, Hazelton, Clearwater, Princeton, Nukusp and Port Hardy.

The physicians will get a $50,000 incentive when they begin working, with the last half paid once they have stayed a year, but the contract requires a three-year stay and the bonus must be refunded if they leave early.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

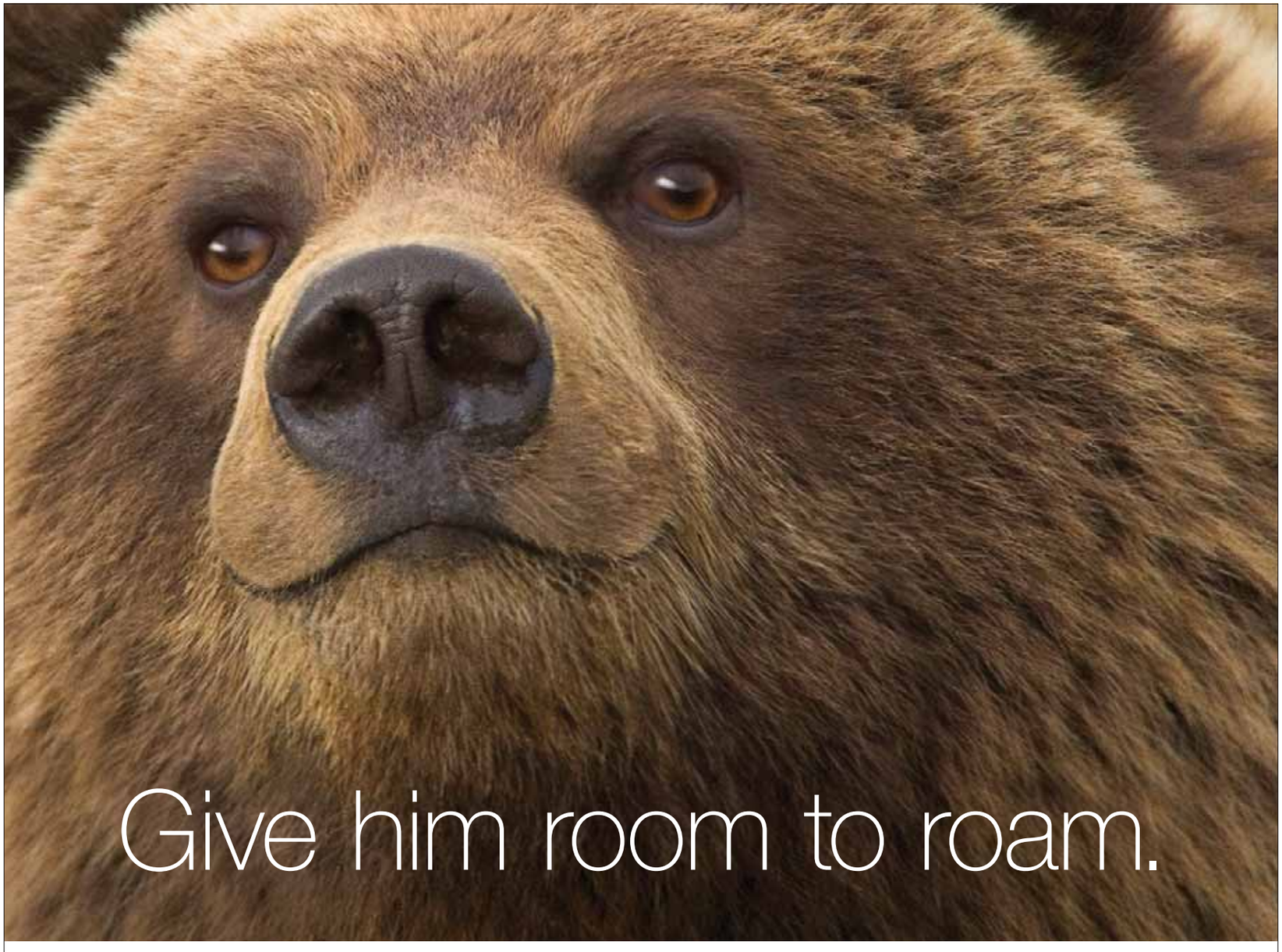
Trafficking

Thugs sentenced for Eastside crimes

Two violent drug dealers who terrorized vulnerable women in the Downtown Eastside have been sentenced for their crimes.

Police say 33-year-old Nolan Swallow has received eight years for conspiracy to traffic and two years for participating in a criminal organization.

Thirty-two-year-old Lemar McCann has been handed a six-year sentence for conspiracy to traffic and a one-year sentence for his role in a criminal organization.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Douglas Eyford, special federal representative on West Coast energy infrastructure, speaks during a news conference after releasing his final report in Vancouver on Thursday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Build trust with First Nations to break impasse, says report

Energy. Aboriginal leaders want development to be sustainable and respectful of rights

The federal government must build trust with First Nations communities and address issues outside of billion-dollar projects if they hope to forge ahead with energy developments, says a report from Ottawa's special envoy dispatched to help resolve an impasse over major oil and gas developments in the West.

Doug Eyford was appointed in March, in the midst of tense federal review hearings for Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline through British Columbia. With a federal review panel report expected within the coming weeks — if not days — the report released Thursday was blunt.

"There has not been a constructive dialogue about energy projects," Eyford wrote.

The report highlighted the economic opportunities and hurdles for aboriginal communities in energy development in oil and gas.

Most aboriginal leaders understand the value and opportunities presented by energy development, the report said, but they want that development to be environmentally sustainable and to acknowledge aboriginal rights.

The report makes four overarching recommendations: Build trust, foster inclusion, advance reconciliation and take action.

"We are all presented with a choice: To maintain the status quo or embrace the opportunities and potential offered by a different path," the report says.

Government should engage and consult with First Nations outside of project-specific reviews, which in the case of Northern Gateway became very adversarial, Eyford said.

"It goes without saying that if governments expect to engage with First Nations communities on matters in their areas of interest, for instance LNG plants or natural-gas pipelines, they have to be prepared to address the interests of First Nations communities," he said. "Those conversations can't be had in isolation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The newly renovated York Theatre on Commercial Drive. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Century-old York Theatre reopens

Commercial Drive. Restoration, relaunch a big boost for local artists, says mayor

Like many heritage buildings in Vancouver, demolition seemed the inevitable fate for the York Theatre.

But on Thursday, five years after the community rallied to save the cultural venue when its former owner applied to tear it down, the century-old theatre reopened as a fully restored performing-arts centre on Commercial Drive.

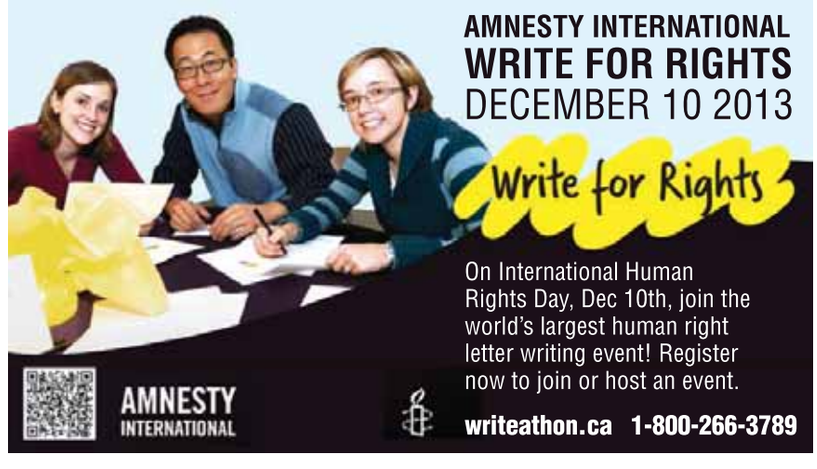
"The restoration and relaunch of the York Theatre is a big boost for local artists, and it's great to be partnering with the Cultch to run it," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a statement.

It was saved after backlash prompted the city to open its chequebook. Vancouver East Cultural Centre and Henriquez Partners Architects did a feasibility study about operating a cultural venue and Wall Financial Corporation purchased the property. In 2011, the city approved a rezoning and revitalization agreement.

The city spent $13 million to restore the LEED-gold standard 365-seat theatre, orchestra pit, lobby and heritage ticket booth. Canadian Heritage provided another $1.8 million.

The Vancouver East Cultural Centre will rent the building from the city and will lease it out to arts and community groups.

"Together we're protecting heritage, supporting the arts and bringing new energy to the neighbourhood," Robertson said. EMILY JACKSON/METRO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Sears

Coal. Critics ramping up efforts to stop exports

With less than two weeks remaining for citizens to weigh in on proposed coal-export infrastructure at the Fraser Surrey Docks, critics of the project are blasting the project's environmental impact assessment.

A coalition of environmental organizations and doctors want Port Metro Vancouver to scrap the assessment and start over to consider the full health and environmental impacts of coal across the region, they announced in a webinar on Thursday.

"The EIA as it pertains to health effects is quite superficial," said Dr. Christopher Carlsten, a UBC professor who researches lung disease.

The assessment's conclusion that coal dust is so minimal it won't pose a risk to neighbouring communities was based on simplified methods and trivialized the health of workers, which Carlsten found "insulting."

Nor does the assessment properly investigate effects on the Fraser River and the habitat for juvenile white sturgeon — an endangered species — near the facility, said Tyee Bridge of the Fraser River Society.

EMILY JACKSON /METRO

Fraser Surrey Docks as seen from New Westminster. METRO FILE

Schools. Energy minister rejects plea for special rate

Energy Minister Bill Bennett has turned down a request from the British Columbia School Trustees Association for a special deal or exemption from looming BC Hydro rate increases, which are forecast to rise by 40 per cent over the next decade.

Bennett said Thursday that if he grants a special deal to school boards, taxpayers, businesses and industrial power users must make up the difference through even higher rates.

A nine per cent increase is set to take effect next April — the first of five years of hikes that total more than 25 per cent.

The trustees' association said the higher rate in April will increase total hydro rates at 1,600 public schools to $39.6 million from $35.5 million, likely sparking program cuts for students.

"The nine per cent increase in the first year amounts to less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total budgets of school boards," Bennett said. "Everybody else is going to have to manage it, including the government, and everyone else is doing their best to manage budgets from all ... perspectives." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Would a tax on foreign property investment alleviate Vancouver's red-hot housing market? Not likely. ERIC DREGGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Would a foreign-investor tax slow the housing market?

Probably not: Experts. Economists eyeing potential move by U.K.

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Want Vancouver real estate to get cheaper?

Raze the mountains, fill in the ocean, build a wall around it to stop any more people from coming and sabotage the economy.

Those were the suggestions urban economists offered when asked what they thought of a hot-button debate that popped up Thursday on a popular online forum about London's possible move to introduce a capital-gains tax on foreign property investment.

The post on Vancouver's Reddit forum, which asked, "Should Vancouver do the same?" garnered hundreds of "up-votes" and comments.

"Yes!" posted one commenter. "Doesn't Australia have something similar?" — (it does) — "Won't ever happen here, though, too many people with their finger in the pie."

Despite a lack of rock-solid data on the role of foreign real-estate investment in Canadian housing prices, since it is not explicitly tracked, local experts who have looked into it using proxy data have been saying for years that it is not a significant driver in Vancouver.

"One of the myths we see in Vancouver is this idea that foreign investors are driving the marketplace," said Cameron Muir, chief economist at the B.C. Real Estate Association.

"The stats really suggest that anywhere from one to four per cent of home sales in any given month are to foreign investors. I think often times what's mistaken for foreign investors are, in fact, recent immigrants."

He said the tax under consideration across the pond is a political reaction to very different market forces, since London is a "world city" and much more of a playground for the "uber-rich" than Vancouver — pretty and outdoorsy as it is.

Some recent stats are telling: London house prices rose by 9.7 per cent from July 2012 to July 2013, according to Britain's Office for National Statistics. During a similar period, from November 2012 to November 2013, Vancouver's prices only rose by one per cent, according to the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver.

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Ottawa nurse Janique Gagnon helps vaccinate a child in the Central African Republic. CONTRIBUTED

Great suffering, enormous need

Médecins Sans Frontières. Conflict in the Central African Republic as awful as high-profile crises, says Canadian nurse

Janique Gagnon, centre, with a group of women in the Central African Republic, at an outreach vaccination day. CONTRIBUTED

DENIS ARMSTRONG
For Metro in Ottawa

Janique Gagnon returned from the Central African Republic on Oct. 8 "with a heavy heart."

The Ottawa children's hospital nurse had just spent the last six months on her first mission with Médecins Sans Frontières — Doctors Without Borders — in one of the most dangerous places on earth, and though she's glad to be home with her husband and two young sons, she wants to return to the war-torn nation as soon as possible.

"I knew there was a risk, so I made it a family decision," Gagnon says. "If my husband or boys don't want me to go, I won't. But they gave me their permission."

They gave their permission because, despite the obvious risks, Gagnon's family understood that front-line emergency work was in her blood.

Before nursing, Gagnon spent 10 years in the Canadian military, deployed in Italy as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she treated casualties from Sarajevo while under fire. Gagnon retired from the military in 2001.

By then, she was looking for an opportunity to volunteer with MSF. The organization offered her the opportunity to run a 95-bed hospital in Boguila, Central African Republic — a jungle village 400 kilometres from the capital, Bangui. This was in April, only two weeks after a coup d'etat reduced the tribal country to civil war.

Without blinking an eye, Gagnon accepted on the spot — nevermind that Seleka rebels and government forces fought viciously in the jungle near the hospital compound.

John Ging, the UN's director of humanitarian operations, has described the country as "a tinderbox that can ignite into something very, very big and very, very bad. Half the country's population of 4.6 million need humanitarian aid. The scale of suffering is among the worst in the world, and it's getting worse."

"I knew the conditions were bad, but that is why I wanted to be there, where the need is the greatest," said Gagnon. "Which is why I joined MSF, because they go to those places where people need medical care the most, and that's usually a dangerous place."

Gagnon had arrived at the beginning of the rainy season when malaria was rampant. She treated the diseased, the dismembered and the dying, witnessing more human degradation than any person should ever see.

Thanks in part to her front-line military experience, she pushed through and focused on the job. She recalls the day she stood up to a Seleka colonel, ordering him to remove his gun prior to entering the hospital.

She remembers the day she cried for the baby that died in her arms.

"Conditions were hard, but the people were so grateful we were there, they didn't want us to leave," she recalls. "I have a huge amount of respect for the people who live there. They have nothing. They can't even take care of themselves because there's nothing."

Gagnon says what they need most are schools. "Education leads to change. It's a long process, but it has to begin now."

To donate to MSF, visit msf.ca.

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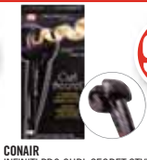

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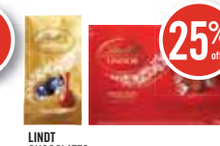

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Ford denies that he offered $5K and a car for crack video

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford uses a security guard as a shield amid a throng of media at Toronto City Hall on Thursday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wiretap revelations.
Toronto Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly calls new allegations 'troubling'

Allegations that Rob Ford offered purported gang members money and a car in exchange for a video are an "outright lie," the Toronto mayor said Thursday amid new questions about why police did not arrest him.

Speaking on an American radio station, the scandal-plagued mayor quickly tried to change the topic when asked about the latest claims against him.

"You can talk to my lawyers about it," Ford told The Sports Junkies, a morning show based in Washington, D.C.

"I'm here to talk football, guys. So if you want to talk football, talk football; but if you want to talk about other things, then unfortunately I'm going to have to let you go."

The latest allegations, which have not been proven in court, are contained in wiretap summaries put together as part of a guns and gangs investigation that were in a police document released Wednesday.

The intercepts reveal men talking with familiarity about the mayor, and suggest they had supplied him with drugs and plotted to blackmail him with photographs of him doing narcotics, police said.

Ford said nothing on arrival at city hall Thursday but Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, who has taken on many of the mayor's responsibilities, said the latest allegations would not affect city business. Kelly did call allegations that Ford was consorting with drug traffickers and gang members troubling.

"The one that's bothered me the most is the possibility of criminality being involved in one way or the other with the mayor's office," he said.

According to the latest documents, Ford's name emerged on the wiretaps about two months before the U.S. website Gawker and the Toronto Star first reported in May that drug dealers were shopping around a video that showed the mayor smoking what appeared to be crack cocaine.

In a conversation investigators said they recorded on March 27, police said one man quoted Ford as saying, "I'll give you 5,000 and a car" for a video.

Mohamed Siad, who police believe was trying to sell the "crack video," said he wanted to meet with him and ask for "150," which police said meant $150,000, the document says.

At the legislature, Municipal Affairs Minister Linda Jeffrey called the allegations "troubling" but said the province would take its cues from city council.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Councillors want answers

Why wasn't he arrested?

Some city councillors called on investigators to explain why they did not arrest the mayor, but police have consistently said they didn't have sufficient evidence to do so and Ford's status as mayor had nothing to do with it.

Investigators have asked to interview Ford, but he has refused on the advice of his lawyer, Dennis Morris, who called the latest allegations baseless.

"It has no benefit," Morris said. "What you could do is create charges that presently have no foundation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Happy meal

Don't bogart that burger, man

A Wendy's employee who tucked a partially smoked blunt in a customer's cheeseburger has been fired and charged with marijuana possession.

Police in the city of Lovejoy, Ga., about 40 kilometres south of downtown Atlanta, say a customer drove home with her food Nov. 1, took a bite out of the burger and noticed a strange smell wafting from it. Police say the woman pulled the bun off and saw a partially smoked blunt inside.

A blunt is marijuana rolled into a hollowed-out cigar. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Arctic Ocean

Key to food chain threatened

Scientists have produced new evidence that climate change could be threatening the food web in the Far North.

Researchers found that tiny crustaceans called copepods, eaten by everything from fish to whales, are likely to react poorly to increasingly acidic water caused by high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The Arctic Ocean is acidifying faster than any other on Earth and all oceans are gradually losing pH.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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C-section forced on mentally ill woman

Britain. Risk of her womb rupturing in delivery; court approved use of 'reasonable restraint' for the surgery

A newly released court judgment says that doctors were medically justified in forcing an Italian woman to have a cesarean section last year because it was in her best interests.

At a hearing of Britain's Court of Protection in August 2012, Justice Nicholas Mostyn declared doctors should be allowed to force Alessandra Pacchieri, 35, to have a C-section because a natural delivery risked rupturing her womb.

Quoted

"A predictable home could only be secured by way of adoption."

A British court ruled in February, although the mom "very much wished" to parent the baby girl, the ruling said.

There were also concerns that if Pacchieri was uncooperative when she went into labour, doctors would be unable to monitor the baby's heartbeat and to see whether Pacchieri's womb might rupture. In his decision, Mostyn authorized the use of "reasonable restraint" to perform the C-section safely.

Pacchieri previously had two elective C-sections and suffered from "a significant mental disorder which is psychotic in nature," Mostyn wrote in his declaration. She had been detained in an east London hospital for several weeks before having the C-section.

The Court of Protection makes decisions for people deemed unable to decide for themselves. It said the ruling was released because of public interest in the case.

Pacchieri is now contesting a British decision to put the child, a girl, up for adoption. Pacchieri's name was disclosed in a press release by her lawyer Stefano Oliva, which said she will appeal against her baby's adoption. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kawartha Lakes, Ont.

Mystery woman leaves 'uranium' with police; no ID

Police are looking for a woman who walked into a police station with a container labelled "85 per cent uranium."

Kawartha Lakes Police say she was asking for advice on how to dispose of it. Cops believe the material came from a Kirkland Lake mine where her grandfather worked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social media plea

Lost suitcase full of Christmas gifts returned

A Regina woman who lost her suitcase on the highway is no longer singing the blues. Trina Owens reached out on social media and Kijiji after her suitcase fell off the back of a truck. It was full of Christmas presents she'd just bought on a shopping trip to the U.S. Her plea paid off — the case was returned. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Demo halted for Thai king

An anti-government protester holds a picture of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej as prayers are said during a celebration of his 86th birthday at the democracy monument which protesters have been occupying in Bangkok. Protesters agreed to halt their activities to pay respect on the king's birthday. ED WRAY/GETTY IMAGES

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London soldier's death

'As if Allah had chosen him,' accused says

A man accused of murdering a British soldier on a London street says he attacked the first serviceman he spotted, saying "it was almost as if Allah had chosen him."

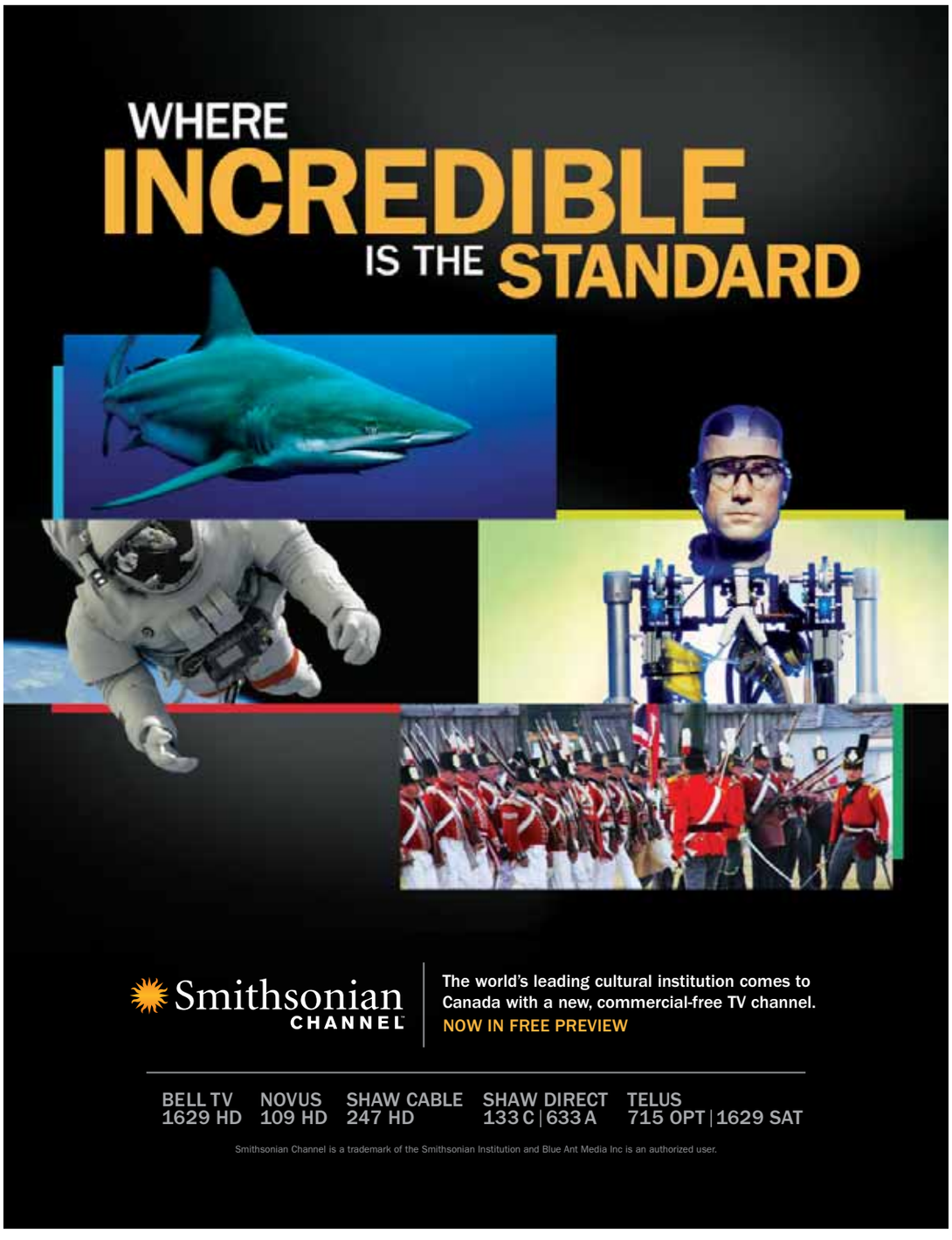
Michael Adebolajo told police in an interview played Thursday at his trial that he and his co-accused decided a soldier was "the most fair target because he joins the army with kind of an understanding that your life is at risk ... We sat in wait and it just so happened that he was the soldier that was spotted first," Adebolajo said in the police interview. Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale are accused of running Fusilier Lee Rigby down with a car before hacking him to death near Woolwich Barracks on May 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Libya

American killed while jogging

An American teacher was shot to death as he was jogging in Benghazi on Thursday, highlighting persistently tenuous security in the eastern Libyan city where the U.S. ambassador was killed last year.

There were no credible claims of responsibility, but suspicion is likely to fall on Islamic militants active in Benghazi. It came five days after al-Qaida's American spokesman called upon Libyans to attack U.S. interests everywhere as revenge for U.S. special forces snatching an al-Qaida suspect off the streets of Tripoli in October and whisking him out of the country. The victim taught chemistry at Benghazi's International School, which follows a British curriculum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Paramedics load a victim into an ambulance after an attack in Sanaa, Yemen, on Thursday. YEMEN DEFENSE MINISTRY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazen attack on Yemen's ministry of defence

Sanaa. Terrorist attack hits U.S. ally, which has a shoreline close to vital shipping lines carrying oil

Alerted

The Yemen Defense Ministry was tipped off last week that a major attack in the capital was imminent, prompting authorities to reinforce security.

- Yemen is located at the southwest corner of the Arabian Peninsula, a strategically important location.

The Yemen Defence Ministry came under attack Thursday from a suicide car bomber and heavily armed gunmen, killing 52 people and wounding 167, in a fierce battle in the heart of the capital, Sanaa.

Among the dead at the Defence Ministry complex, which also houses a military hospital, were soldiers and civilians, including seven foreigners — two Germans, two Vietnamese, two Filipinos and one Indian, according to the Supreme Security Commission.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the two-stage assault, but suicide bombings and complex attacks are the hallmarks of al-Qaida.

The morning attack, the deadliest in Sanaa since May 2012, underlined the ability of insurgents to strike at the government as they exploit the instability that has plagued the country — a U.S. ally — for more than two years.

The U.S. considers Yemen's al-Qaida branch to be the most active in the world.

The government said all the militants who stormed the complex Thursday were killed, but it did not say how many. State TV showed a dozen bodies, identifying them as the attackers. Military helicopters hovered over the site as soldiers and ambulances arrived and gunfire echoed in the streets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REUTERS/Erik De Castro

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Use bitcoins at your own risk, warns China's central bank

'Virtual goods'. Country bars banks from handling the cyber currency

Bitcoins suffered a new setback after China's central bank said Thursday its banks and payment systems are barred from handling the virtual currency.

The central bank said bitcoins did not qualify as a currency but private individuals still are allowed to trade them at their own risk.

Bitcoins are created, distributed, and authenticated independently of any bank or government. Their relative anonymity holds out the promise of being able to spend money across the Internet without scrutiny.

A customer pays for drinks at a pub using bitcoins earlier this year in Sydney, Australia, using a QR code on a smartphone. GETTY IMAGES

"Bitcoins are virtual goods that have no legal status or monetary equivalent and should not be used as currency," said a Chinese central bank statement.

It said financial institutions and payment systems were not allowed to use bitcoin prices for products and could not sell, trade or store bitcoins.

"Ordinary people are free to participate in transactions at their own risk," the central bank said.

Despite wild swings in value, the virtual currency has been moving toward broader acceptance. A growing number of companies accept bitcoins, which can be converted into cash.

Other governments are wary of the cybercurrency. In July, Thailand's central bank banned the trading and use of bitcoins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baby steps

Twitter leans in, adds woman to board of directors

Twitter has named Marjorie Scardino as a director, adding a woman to the all-white male board for which it's been sharply criticized.

Scardino, 66, was the CEO of Pearson PLC, a publishing and education company, from 1997 to 2012, Twitter Inc. said in a filing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 93.98¢ (+0.33¢)

TSX 13,200.40 (-104.52)

OIL $97.38 US (+18¢)

GOLD $1,231.90 US (-$15.30)

Natural gas: $4.14 US (+18¢)
Dow Jones: 15,821.51 (-68.26)

High EI rates padding feds' budget: Report

The Harper government may need to depend on artificially high EI premiums, asset sales and spending restraint to balance the budget in time for the 2015 election, the federal budget watchdog says in a new report.

But the new assessment from the parliamentary budget office also projects that the government will be able to achieve its target of a balanced budget in 2015 and even amass a bigger surplus in the critical election year than the government projects. The report says its baseline projection puts the 2015 budget surplus at $4.6 billion — almost $1 billion more than the official estimate contained in last month's economic update paper.

As well, the budget office projection shows next year's deficit at $3.5 billion — $2 billion lower than Ottawa's estimate in last month's economic update — and within an eyelash of a balanced budget, once a $3-billion cushion for surprises is factored out.

But the report shows that the improvement from the economic update is dependent not so much on a strong economy but on extraordinary measures and keeping payroll taxes higher than need be.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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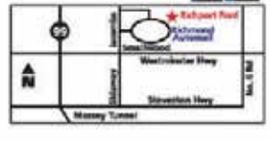

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Freedom fighter, world icon

Analysis. Why Nelson Mandela was important to South Africa and the world

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Nelson Mandela's cell of five square metres in Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, is now a virtual shrine for tourists and political figures alike. But Mandela was much more than a long-suffering prisoner. He was a world leader and a 20th century icon.

"His building a future for South Africa was a huge achievement," says Stephen Chan, professor of international relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and author of numerous books on southern Africa.

"He helped draft what may be the world's best constitution. He was instrumental in establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was crucial in helping the country deal with its apartheid past. He was also a highly moral politician, setting the tone for the whole continent by stepping down after one term."

Lilias van Wyk, a white South African who lived through apartheid, is full of admiration for Mandela.

"There's nobody like him here in South Africa. (Our former president and Mandela's deputy president Thabo Mbeki) was a gentleman, but our current president is more interested in ladies than anything else," she tells Metro.

Indeed, Mandela succeeded where so many other freedom-fighters-turned-leaders have failed: as a democratic politician and later president, the former communist united his country.

Despite the black majority's pent-up anger over decades of discrimination, no civil war erupted. The transition to democracy under Mandela's leadership proceeded in a remarkably peaceful and orderly fashion. In his presidential inauguration speech, Mandela urged South Africans to practise forgiveness, saying in Afrikaans, "Wat is verby verby," which translates to "What is past is past." And, through the power of his moral leadership, Mandela brought South Africa back into the international fold.

Quote

"We all think he was a fantastic man. It's amazing what he accomplished without any violence or shooting. And his dignity! I say, 'Thank you, Lord, that we've had him.'"

Lilias van Wyk, a white South African who lived through apartheid

But, Africa watchers note, Mandela was no angel, inherently speaking.

"He became a saint because we made him one," says Chan. "We made him one to justify not putting enough pressure on the apartheid government to release him."

And though South African lore sees him as an old man who magically emerged from decades in prison to govern his country with great success, the reality is a bit more nuanced. Explains Chan: "The four years between his release and his election as president in 1994 were turbulent. He had to go on a steep learning curve."

And, while Mandela was in charge as president, he mainly provided the strategic direction and left the nitty-gritty of governing to his deputy, Thabo Mbeki. That's in no way negative, but the frail 76-year-old didn't single-handedly perform the arduous task of running the country.

Even after stepping down, Mandela remained an icon at home and around the world: almost uniquely among dissidents elected to political power, he left with his integrity and popularity intact. For South Africa, the African continent, even the world he was a desperately needed icon of democratic success.

"We're all praying for a peaceful transition now," says van Wyk. "We're on our knees 24-7."

But the adoration of Mandela will no doubt continue.

South Africa's first black president, Nelson Mandela, revisits his prison cell on Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, in 1994.
GETTY IMAGES

SOURCES: BBC, NOBELPRIZE.ORG, PBS, SABC
GRAPHIC: MIA KORAB; TEXT: ANTHONY JOHNSTON

5 THINGS WE'LL REMEMBER ABOUT MANDELA

1918-2013

1 FROM ROYALTY, LEGAL ACTIVISM TO "TERRORISM"
Nelson Mandela, raised by an African royal family in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa, studied law at university and opened the country's first black law firm at the age of 34. His zeal to fight apartheid led him to co-found an armed wing of the African National Congress, classified as a terrorist group at the time.

2 ROBBED OF LIBERTY, ON ROBBEN ISLAND
In 1964, Mandela was jailed for life for plotting to overthrow the government by sabotage. For 18 years of his sentence, he was interned at the infamous Robben Island prison in a tiny cell barely a few square metres in size. He was locked away, but not forgotten, as his power of resistance against apartheid spread from behind the bars to across the world.

3 MANDELA'S FREE AFTER MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY
On February 11, 1990, clutching his wife Winnie's hand and dressed in a dignified brown suit, Mandela punches the air in a victory salute as he walks away from the gates of Victor Verster Prison. Mandela's freedom after 27 years in jail was one of the most iconic memories of the 20th century. Mandela was released following a relaxation of apartheid laws.

4 SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT ... AND OLDEST
In 1994, after more than 300 years of white rule, South Africa has its first black president after the country's first fully democratic election. At age 75, he became South Africa's oldest ever elected head of state.

5 BLACK AND WHITE UNITED, THROUGH SPORT
The following year, in another epic historic — and sporting — moment of the 20th century, Mandela presents the Rugby World Cup trophy to captain Francois Pienaar, an Afrikaner. Wearing a shirt of the South African rugby team (once reviled by the black population), Mandela's gesture was seen as a huge step of unity between blacks and whites.

1 visitor a year for 30 minutes was all Mandela was allowed to receive as a prisoner on Robben Island. He could write and receive one letter every half a year while interned there.

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

Mandela on dealing with his opponents. He was lauded worldwide for working with those authorities that once persecuted him, rather than remaining embittered.

DID YOU KNOW?

MADIBA: Throughout his life, Mandela was affectionately and respectfully called Madiba, the name of the Xhosa-speaking Thembu tribal clan to which he belonged.

MASTER OF DISGUISE: Nicknamed "The Black Pimpernel" during his clashes with South African authorities because of his knack for avoiding the police using disguises. His favourite one was a chauffeur.

KEEN CLASSICAL MUSIC FAN: Handel and Tchaikovsky were ranked among his favourite musicians.

A TASTE FOR THE SIMPLE: Mandela's favourite dishes included crumbled maize meal with sour milk, oxtail stew with vegetables and tripe — that's the stomach lining of animals.

MANDELA THE "TERRORIST": For years, Mandela was flagged on the United States' terror watch list due to his leadership in "terrorist" organization African National Congress against the old apartheid regime, and needed a waiver from the Secretary of State to travel to the US. In 2008, he was removed from the terror list.

metro
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Synopsis

"Well, it's Christmas time, pretty baby" ... and the Reel Guys are watching films... With our apologies to Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, who wrote those lyrics to Elvis Presley's Santa Claus is Back in Town — that song pretty much sums up what the holiday season means for us. Next week we'll be back to reviewing the big releases of the year, but before we get to that we thought we'd have a look at movies to get us in the Christmas spirit. They may not all be on Santa's nice list.

Billy Bob Thornton's Bad Santa is an antidote to all that icky holiday cheer. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Santa's back in town

Festive features. The Reel Guys share their favourite holiday films, but not all of them bring comfort and joy

Richard: James Stewart stars in one of the movies that always puts me in the mood for Christmas, but its not the one you think. Sure, It's A Wonderful Life is a classic and yuletastic, but I also enjoy The Shop Around The Corner. It's a Christmassy romance that sees shop co-workers Stewart and Margaret Sullivan at one another's throats at work, unaware that they are also anonymously courting one another as pen pals. All becomes clear on Christmas Eve and they unwrap a big ol' gift basket of love. It's almost as heartwarming as a giant mug of hot chocolate.

Mark: Richard, as I'm Jewish, the Christmas holiday doesn't have quite the emotional pull on me that it might have on you. So, come Christmas Eve our family gathers around the TV, where we watch Bad Santa until we fall asleep from convulsive laughter. The story of an alcoholic, womanizing, foulmouthed Santa is a delightful antidote to all that icky cheer I'm supposed to feel. Then, when the novelty dies down, I get with the program and watch Elf. But I wear my Grinch mask just in case a tear is shed.

RC: That green synthetic fur is great for soaking up tears! But an antidote to the icky cheer you describe are two films set during the holidays without an ounce of tinsel treacle between them. In The Long Kiss Goodnight an amnesiac played by Geena Davis is outed as a former hired killer when she is recognized playing Mrs. Claus in a Christmas parade. The title A Christmas Tale sounds traditional enough, but the story focuses on the bitter rather than the sweet. The English title of this Catherine Deneuve dramedy could easily have been Cancer for Christmas, but despite the downer topic it's complex, funny and touching.

MB: I've never seen A Christmas Tale, Richard, thanks for the tip. But if it's holiday downers we're looking for, consider Black Christmas, a 1974 slasher flick starring Olivia Hussey. I guess you could double-bill this one with the 2006 remake, but that might be, ahem, overkill.

RC: Many years ago, on the first Christmas the PMC — my Preferred Movie Companion — and I spent together, I screened Black Christmas for her, which almost stopped the relationship before it had a chance to really get going. I love the slaying slasher story. Her, not so much. I quickly rebounded with National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, which made the yuletide bright once again. Thanks, Chevy Chase, for saving Christmas and my relationship!

MB: Well, for a Jewish guy like me, I'll just have to be content with Adam Sandler's Hanukkah animation classic, Eight Crazy Nights, and a glass of Manischewitz!

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Women to rule at Sundance 2014

Lineup look-ahead. Comedy giants try their hand at more serious roles

Ladies will continue to drive the feature lineup at the Sundance Film Festival as Robert Redford's independent-cinema fair celebrates its 30th anniversary next month in Park City, Utah.

At the top of the list released Wednesday, female directors dominate the competition, with eight out of the 16 films helmed by women. And in front of the camera, women reign supreme — only this time, comedians eclipse the layout.

Actresses like Amy Poehler, Kristen Wiig, Molly Shannon, Aubrey Plaza, Amy Sedaris and Jenny Slate all appear in features playing at the upcoming fest. And in the case of Wiig, Shannon and Plaza, we have funny gals turning serious.

Following her dramatic turn in the upcoming The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, Wiig will play the twin sister of fellow SNL alum Bill Hader in The Skeleton Twins. In the film, which also stars Luke Wilson and Ty Burrell, the siblings coincidentally cheat death on the same day.

Shannon and Plaza will star in Life After Beth, which focuses on a mysterious second chance at love after death.

"Comedians are big this year, especially with what we are calling 'funny ladies,'" said Sundance director John Cooper.

"A lot of these roles are setting up typical comedic actresses in roles that are a little deeper. In general, a lot of actors are being drawn to independent film because of the quality of interesting roles that they can play."

Sundance films typically offer the ideal fabric and draw for performers who are departing from their usual Hollywood formulas.

Girls sitcom creator Lena Dunham, whose debut movie, Tiny Furniture, won best narrative feature when it premiered at the South by Southwest film festival in 2010, will appear in writer/director Joe Swanberg's Happy Christmas, also starring Anna Kendrick.

In her first feature since The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2, Kristen Stewart plays a guard stationed at Guantanamo Bay in budding writer/director Peter Sattler's Camp X-Ray.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig take a turn for the serious at Sundance in The Skeleton Twins. CONTRIBUTED

By the numbers

Altogether, 117 feature-length films, selected out of 12,218 titles submitted (72 more than for 2013), are scheduled for Sundance 2014. Some 37 countries and 54 first-time filmmakers will be represented.

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Her named best film by National Board of Review

Spike Jonze's futuristic romance Her has been named best film by the National Board of Review. The board also named Jonze best director, giving Her an early awards season boost. The Warner Bros. film starring Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson is to be released December 18. Alexander Payne's father-son road trip Nebraska took two acting awards. Bruce Dern won for best actor, and his co-star Will Forte won for best supporting actor. Emma Thompson was awarded best actress for the Mary Poppins story Saving Mr. Banks. Best supporting actress went to Octavia Spencer for Fruitvale Station.
The National Board of Review is a group of film academics, students and professionals founded in 1909. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crime/Drama

Out of the Furnace

Director. Scott Cooper

Stars. Christian Bale, Casey Affleck

This movie is bleaker than the most mournful George Jones song. When steel mill worker Russell Baze (Christian Bale) emerges from jail, he finds his live-in girlfriend (Zoe Saldana) no longer lives in and his Iraq War vet brother Rodney (Casey Affleck) is having trouble with civilian life. When Rodney disappears after a bare-knuckle fight run by Harlan DeGroat (Woody Harrelson) Russell attempts vigilante justice. Bale and Affleck hand in intense performances but Harrelson shines as the best movie scuzzball in recent memory.

RICHARD CROUSE

Documentary

The Summit

Director. Nick Ryan

In August 2008, in a span of 48 hours, 11 people died while attempting to conquer K2, the second tallest mountain in the world. In great detail The Summit pieces together what happened on that failed expedition. But perhaps more importantly, it attempts to explain the motivations and mindset of climbers — of people who will risk their lives even after witnessing tragedy. In interviews with survivors, recreations and with dramatic footage and photos of the event, the director expertly weaves together many — and often differing — accounts to tell a complete and riveting story.

REGAN REID

A tale of family breakdown

Empire of Dirt. Story of mother-daughter relationship strikes a chord with audiences

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Jennifer Podemski, left, and Cara Gee, star in Empire of Dirt, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

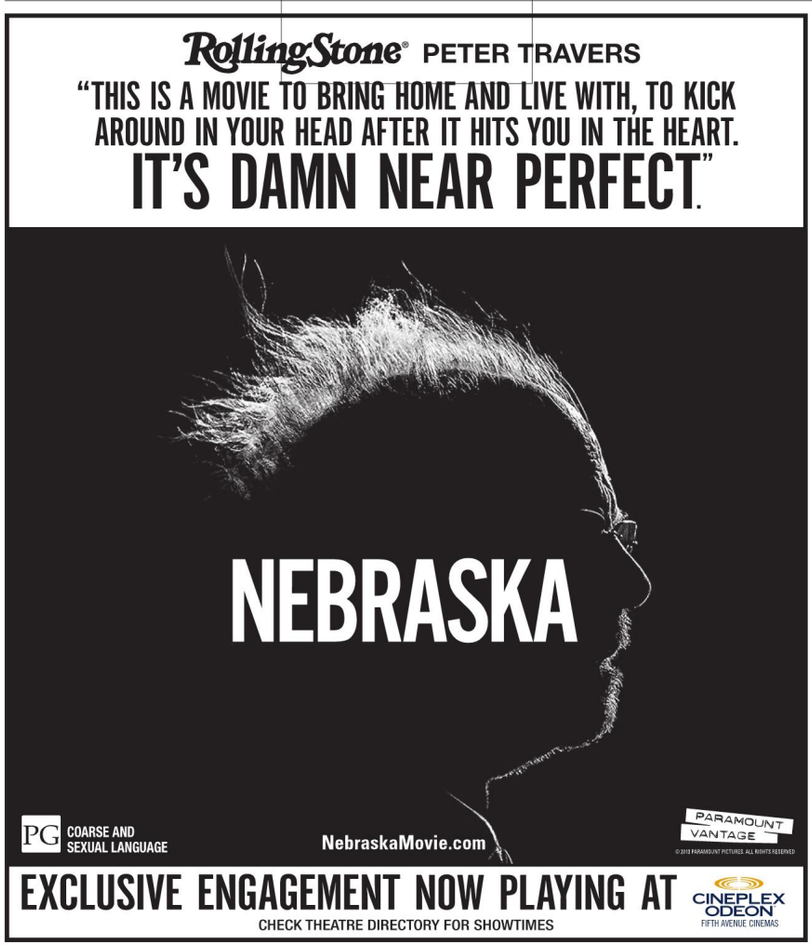
For Jennifer Podemski, the eight years it took to get Empire of Dirt into theatres has been time well spent — even if she sometimes felt her efforts would never see the light of day.

"There were many times I wanted to walk away because it was so challenging," said the producer/star of the multi-generational drama focused on a broken First Nations family. "It was really a challenge to not make it an identity politics kind of movie…I wanted to get into all the nitty gritty about residential schools and explain why these women were the way they were but we all agreed (not to) make any of the issues they were dealing with culturally specific."

That key decision has only emboldened the strength of Podemski's film — not to mention its reach. The movie may touch on such provocative First Nations issues as residential schools but does so in a way that doesn't alienate other audiences.

"There were versions that really delved into the residential school conversation and we decided to take it all out; it seemed like exposition because those characters wouldn't really talk about it," explained Podemski. "In our effort to keep it real and honest, we had to prevent ourselves from going down that path to want to explain (those issues) to the audience."

As such, the film has found a following by simplifying a single mother's story about returning home with her rebellious teenaged daughter to reconcile with her own mother (Podemski) and the decisions of her past. "It seems like it resonates with people who have some perspective on their own life," said Podemski. "We have a lot of people who couldn't stop crying after the film because it resonated with their own experience with identity and abandonment — things that maybe anyone can relate to."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The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4-7-9:40 Thu 1:15-4-7-9:40
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:10

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At Berkeley (STC) Fri-Sat 6:30 Sun 1:30-6:30 Wed 6:30
Dim Cinema (STC) Mon 7:30
Flavor of Green Tea Over Rice (STC) Thu 8:35
Late Spring (STC) Thu 6:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street

Philomena (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:50-9

Rio on Broadway 1660 E. Broadway

Bad Milo! (14A) Sat-Sun 9:30 Wed-Thu 7
Bettie Page Reveals All (STC) Sat-Tue 7
Don Jon (18A) Mon-Tue 9:30
Scrooged (STC) Fri 11
Toad Road (STC) Thu 9
Yor, the Hunter From the Future (STC) Wed 9:30 0

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St.

Die Hard (18A) Wed 9:30
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4-6:55-9:50 Mon 1:20-4-6:45-9:35 Tue 1:20-4-6:45-9:45 Wed 1:20-4-10:40 Thu 1:20-4-6:45-9:35
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:35-10 Mon 1:10-3:35-5:45-8:05-10:30 Tue 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:35-10
Wed-Thu 1:10-3:35-5:45-8:05-10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) Thu 10 Thu 10:20 Thu 10:40
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12-1:30-3:15-4:50-6:30-8:15-9:45 Sat 10:15-12-1:30-3:15-4:50-6:30-8:15-9:45 Sun 12-3:15-4:50-6:30-8:15-9:45 Mon 1:25-3:05-4:50-6:25-8:10-9:45 Tue 12-1:35-3:10-4:50-6:25-8:10-9:40 Wed 1:25-3:05-4:50-6:25-8:10 Thu 12:30-3:05-4-6:25-9:45 Fri-Sun 1-4:20-7:40-10:55 Mon-Wed 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Thu 1-4:15-7:30 Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Mon 12:25-3:40-10:15 Tue 12:25-3:35-6:50-10:05 Wed 12:25-3:40-7-10:15 Thu 12-3:15-6:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Mon 1:50-4:35-7:15-10 Tue 1:50-4:35-7:15-9:55 Wed-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:15-10
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (G) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 1:55-5-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:50 Sat 11-1:55-5-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:50 Sun 1:55-5-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:50 Mon-Tue 2:10-5-7:20-7:50-10:10-10:40 Wed 12:30-3:15-6-7:20-10:10 Thu 5-7:20-7:50-10:40

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street

Inequality for All (G) Fri-Mon 8:30 Thu 8:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed
The Summit (STC) Fri-Mon 6:30 Thu 6:30

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre 845 Avison Way

Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas 4D (STC) Fri 11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15 Sat-Sun 11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15 Mon-Thu 11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15

Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade

The Book Thief (PG) , , Fri 6:30-9:30 , , Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 , , Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Frozen (G) , , Fri 7 , , Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7 , , Mon-Thu 7
Frozen 3D (G) , , Fri 6:40-9:20 , , Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:20 , , Mon-Wed 6:40-9:20 , , Thu 6:40
Gravity 3D (PG) , Fri-Wed 9:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (STC) , , Thu 10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) , , Thu 10
Homefront (14A) , , Fri 6:35-9:15 , , Sat-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:35-9:15 , , Mon-Tue 6:35-9:15 , , Wed-Thu 9:50
Oldboy (18A) , , Fri 6:50-9:40 , , Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 , , Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40
Thor: The Dark World (PG) , Fri 6:45 , Sat-Sun 12:40-6:45 , Mon-Thu 6:45
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) , Fri 9:35 , Sat-Sun 3:40-9:35 , Mon-Thu 9:35

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat 11:40-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Sun 4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 6:15-9:30 Sat 11:30-2:45-6:15-9:30 Sun 2:45-6:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:15-9:30 Fri 6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-10
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Philomena (PG) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat 11:35-2-4:30-7:10-9:40 Sun 2-4:30-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:20-10:40 Mon 12:30-3:35-6:55-9:55 Tue 12:45-4-7:20-10:40 Wed 12:30-3:35-6:55-9:55 Thu 12:30-3:35-9:55
About Time (PG) Fri-Sun 9:55 Mon 9:15 Tue 9:55 Wed-Thu 9:15
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-7:05-10:10 Mon 12:35-3:45-6:45-9:45 Tue 1-4:05-7:05-10:10 Wed-Thu 12:35-3:45-6:45-9:45
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:05-7:15-10:25
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 10:50-1:15 Sun-Thu 1:15
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:40 Sat 10:20
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-10
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:20 Mon 1:55-4:25-7-10:20 Tue 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:20 Wed 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:40 Thu 1:55-4:25-7:10-9:40
Die Hard (18A) Wed 9:30
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05
Free Birds (G) Fri-Sun 1 Mon 1:05 Tue 1 Wed-Thu 1:05
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:15-5:30-7:40 Mon-Thu 3:15-5:30-7:50
Frozen (G) Fri 1:40-4:20-7:05 Sat 9:45-10-1:40-4:20-7:05 Sun 1:40-4:20-7:05 Mon 1-3:40-6:15 Tue 1:40-4:20-7:05 Wed-Thu 1-3:40-6:15
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:35 Sat 10:15 Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:35 Mon 2-4:40-7:15-10 Tue 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:35 Wed-Thu 2-4:40-7:15-10 Sat 9:15-12-2:40-5:20-8-10:35
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:20-5:40-8:05-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) Thu 2:50-10 Thu 10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Thu 10
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:15-8-10:35 Mon 2:10-4:55-7:30-10:05 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:15-8-10:35 Wed-Thu 2:10-4:55-7:30-10:05
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:45-7-10:15 Mon 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Tue 12:25-3:45-7-10:15 Wed 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40 Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Mon 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Tue 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Tue 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Wed 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:40 Sun 3-5:30-8-10:40 Mon 1:50-4:50-7:35-10:15 Tue 12:05-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:35-10:15
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:15 Tue 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Wed 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:15 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:35-5-7:25-9:50 Mon 12:25-2:40-5:10-7:25-9:50 Tue 12:15-2:35-5-7:25-9:50 Wed 12:25-2:40-5:10-7:25-9:50 Thu 3:20-5:40-7:55-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Mon 7:30
Ram-Leela (PG) Fri-Wed 6:10-9:35 Thu 6:35
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (G) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:05-3:55-6:50 Sat 10:15-1:05-3:55-6:50 Sun 1:05-3:55-6:50 Mon 12:45-3:35 Tue 1:05-3:55-6:50 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:35
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 2:05-4:55-7:50-9:40-10:45 Sat 11-2:05-4:55-7:50-9:40-10:45 Sun 2:05-4:55-7:50-9:40-10:45 Mon 1:45-4:35-7:35-9:40-10:20 Tue 2:05-4:55-7:50-9:40-10:45 Wed 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:20 Thu 1:45-4:35-7:35-9:20-10:30

Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St.

Frozen (G) Fri 5-7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45-5-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 5-7:10-9:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (STC) Thu 10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30

SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave.

Delivery Man (PG) Fri 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:35 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Sun 12:20-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:15 Mon 12-2:25-4:50-7:05-10:20 Tue-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:40-10:20
Frozen (G) Fri 1:55-4:35-7:15 Sat 11:15-1:55-4:35-7:15 Sun 1:25-4:05-6:45 Mon-Tue 2-4:40-7:20 Wed 1:50-4:15-7:05 Thu 2-4:40-7:20
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sun 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 12-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:25
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 12:25-2:55-5:10-7:35-9:55 Sat 12:35-2:55-5:10-7:35-9:55 Sun 11:55-2:25-4:40-7:05-9:25 Mon-Wed 12:20-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 Thu 12:20-2:40-4:55-7:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) Thu 10 Thu 10:10
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
Homefront (14A) Fri 12:35-3-5:25-7:55-10:20 Sat 1-3:20-5:40-8:05-10:30 Sun 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:10-2:35-5-7:30-9:55
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Wed 12:25-3:40-6:55-10:10 Thu 12:35-3:50-7:05-10:20 Fri 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sat 11-12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon 12:05-3:20-9:50 Tue 12:05-3:20-6:35-9:50 Wed 12:05-3:20-9:50 Thu 12:20-3:35-6:50-10:05 Fri-Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sun 2:45-6-9:15 Mon-Wed 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Thu 12:05-3:20-6:35
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Sat 10:10 Sun 9:40 Mon-Thu 10:05
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Sat 11:20-2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:05-10
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Mon 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sat 2:10 Sun 1:40 Mon-Thu 1:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:55-7:40-10:30 Sun 4:25-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:25-10:15

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:35-6:45-9:55 Sun 3:35-6:45-9:55 Mon 12:40-3:40-9:55 Tue 12:30-3:35-6:45-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:55 Fri-Sun 1:55-5:10-8:30 Mon 5:45-9 Tue 1:55-5:10-8:30 Wed-Thu 5:45-9
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:10 Mon 12:55-3:55-7-10:05 Tue 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:10 Wed-Thu 12:55-3:55-7-10:05 Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Mon 4:10-7:20-10:30 Tue 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Wed 4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 4:10-7:30-10:30
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Wed 9:45
Commitment (STC) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:25
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 Mon 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:15 Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:10-10
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Sun 12:45-3:25-6:30-9:15 Mon 2-4:35-7:35-10:20 Tue 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Wed 1:15-9 Thu 2-4:35
Free Birds (G) Fri-Thu 2:10
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:35
Frozen (G) Fri 1:15-4-6:50 Sat 11:15-1:15-4-6:50 Sun-Thu 1:15-4-6:50
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Tue 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10

Extraordinary or extra ordinary.
The choice is yours.
[taste life]

You could win your experience of a lifetime. $10,000 to do that thing you always wanted to try.

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colour in your life

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3-5:25-7:45-10:15 Mon 12:50-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:15 Tue 12:35-3-5:25-7:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) Thu 10 Thu 10:30 Thu 10-10:45
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Mon 2:20-5:15-7:55-10:30 Tue 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Wed-Thu 2:20-5:15-7:55-10:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:50 Mon 1:45-5-8:15 Tue 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:50 Wed 1:45-5-8:15 Thu 3:20-5:10-6:40-8:30 Fri-Sun 12-2:25-3:25-5:50-6:50-9:15-10:10 Mon 3:30-5:10-6:50-8:30-10:10 Tue 12-2:25-3:25-5:50-6:50-9:15-10:10 Wed 3:30-5:10-6:50-8:30-10:10 Thu 2:45-6:20 Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Mon 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Tue 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:40
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:40-7:45-10:40 Mon 2-4:40-7:40-10:25 Tue 2-4:40-7:45-10:40 Wed 4:40-7:40-10:25 Thu 2-4:40-7:40-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon 2:25-4:50-7:20-9:50 Tue 12-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:50 Wed 4:50-7:20-9:50 Thu 2:25-4:50-7:20-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Mon 7:30
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (G) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45 Mon 1:20 Tue 1:45 Wed-Thu 1:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:40-7:40-10:35 Mon 4:10-7:05-10 Tue 4:40-7:40-10:35 Wed-Thu 4:10-7:05-10
Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:50-10:50 Mon 4:40-7:40-10:30 Tue 1:30-4:40-7:50-10:50

Wed 4:40-7:50-10:30 Thu 3:50-7

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey

Frozen (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Ender's Game (PG) Sat-Sun 2:30
Free Birds (G) Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Gravity (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri 4:50-8:55 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:50-8:55 Mon-Thu 4:50-8:55
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

Bhaji in Problem (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4-7:05-10:05
Bullett Raja (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6-9
Frozen (G) Fri 1:35-4:15-6:50 Sat 11-1:35-4:15-6:50 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:15-6:50
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:05-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:40-3:10-5:35-8-10:25 Wed 5:35-8-10:25 Thu 12:40-3:10-5:35-8-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:30-10:40 Mon-Tue 1-4:10-7:25-10:35 Wed 4:10-7:25-10:35 Thu 1-4:10-7:25-10:35 Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-9:35-10:15 Mon-Wed 12:35-3:45-7-9:35-10:15 Thu 12:35-3:45-7-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Love Yoou Soniye (STC) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:25-6:35-9:45 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:45
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
R... Rajkumar (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:05-7:20-10:30
Ram-Leela (PG) Fri-Wed 1:25-5:45-9:15 Thu 1:25-5:45
Singh Saab the Great (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-5-8:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 2:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 5:05-7:50-10:35

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

Bhaji in Problem (G) , Fri 3:50-7:10-10 , Sat-Sun 1:05-3:50-7:10-10 , Mon 7:10-10 , Tue 3:50-7:10-10 , Wed-Thu 7:10-10
The Book Thief (PG) , Fri 3:40-6:35-9:35 , Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:35-9:35 , Mon 6:35-9:35 , Tue 3:40-6:35-9:35 , Wed-Thu 6:35-9:35
Bullett Raja (14A) , Fri 3:45-7:40 , Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-7:40 , Mon 7:40 , Tue 3:45-7:40 , Wed-Thu 7:40
Frozen (G) , Fri-Sun 4:10-9:30 , Mon 9:30 , Tue 4:10-9:30 , Wed-Thu 9:30
Frozen 3D (G) , Fri 6:45 , Sat-Sun 1:30-6:45 , Mon-Thu 6:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (STC) , Thu 10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) , Thu 10
Homefront (14A) , Fri 4:05-6:50-9:45 , Sat-Sun 1:10-4:05-6:50-9:45 , Mon 6:50-9:45 , Tue 4:05-6:50-9:45 , Wed 6:50-9:45 , Thu 6:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) , Fri 3:30-4-6:30-7-9:15-9:50 , Sat-Sun 12:50-1:20-3:30-4-6:30-7-9:15-9:50 , Mon 6:30-7-9:15-9:50 , Tue 3:30-4-6:30-7-9:15-9:50 , Wed 6:30-7-9:15-9:50 , Thu 6:30-9:15-9:50
Oldboy (18A) , Fri 4:30-7:25-10:15 , Sat-Sun 1:15-4:30-7:25-10:15 , Mon 7:25-10:15 , Tue 4:30-7:25-10:15 , Wed 7:25-10:15 , Thu 7
Out of the Furnace (14A) , Fri 4:20-7:05-9:40 , Sat-Sun 12:55-4:20-7:05-9:40 , Mon 7:05-9:40 , Tue 4:20-7:05-9:40 , Wed-Thu 7:05-9:40
R... Rajkumar (STC) , Fri 3:55-7:35 , Sat-Sun 12:35-3:55-7:35 , Mon 7:35 , Tue 3:55-7:35 , Wed-Thu 7:35
Singh Saab the Great (PG) , Fri 4:15-7:30 , Sat-Sun 1-4:15-7:30 , Mon 7:30 , Tue 4:15-7:30 , Wed-Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) , Fri 7:20 , Sat-Sun 1:35-7:20 , Mon-Thu 7:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) , Fri-Sun 4:25-10:05 , Mon 10:05 , Tue 4:25-10:05 , Wed-Thu 10:05

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

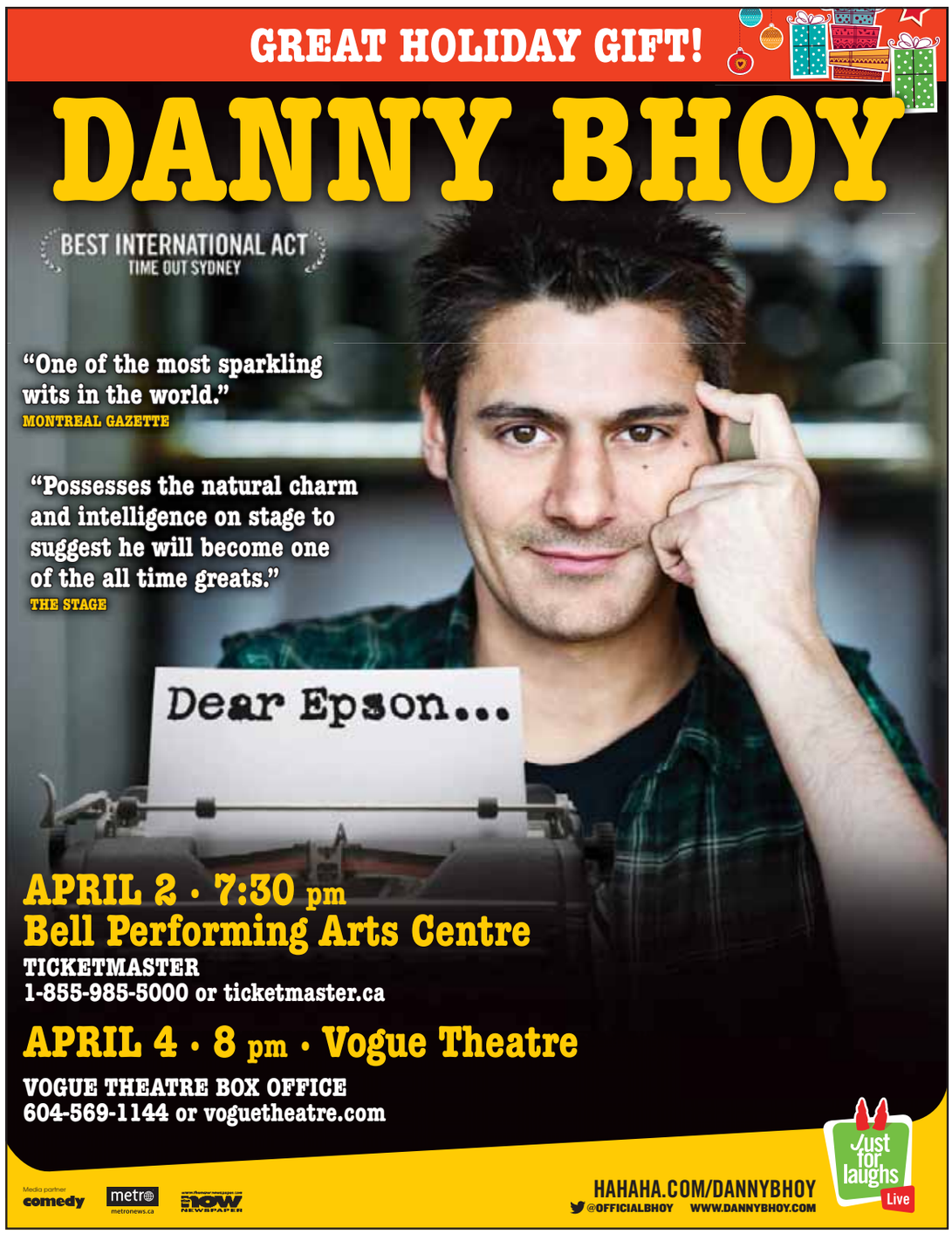
12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat 2-7-9:20 Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Philomena (PG) Fri 7:10-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9 Mon-Thu 7:10-9

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

The Book Thief (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 7:20-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:30
Frozen (G) Fri 7:10-9 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:10-9 Mon-Thu 7:10-9
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 6:45-9:35 Sat 2-6:45-9:35 Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:55-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:20
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:10-10:15
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Sun 4:20-7:35-10:40 Mon-Thu 4-7-10:25
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri 1:50 Sat 11-1:50 Sun 1:50
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:40-10:35
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-8:05-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:25-10:05
Die Hard (18A) Wed 9:30
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35 Mon-Wed 10:20
Free Birds (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 11-1:15 Sun 1:15
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:30-5:45-7:55 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20
Frozen (G) Fri 1:20-4:15-7 Sat 11:10-1:20-4:15-7 Sun 1:20-4:15-7 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:45
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 11:30-12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:55
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:35-5:50-8:15-10:35 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:35-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10 No Passes Thu 10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 2-5:15-8:30 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:30 Fri-Sun 12:05-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:15-9:30 Fri-Sun 1:15-4:30-7:45-11 Mon-Wed 4:15-7:30-10:45 Thu 4:15
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Wed 4-7:05-10:15 Thu 4-7
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Sun 10:45 Mon-Thu 9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 5-7:50-10:40
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon-Tue 4:25-7:25-10:35 Wed 7:25-10:35 Thu 4:25-7:25-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Tue 4:55-7:40-10:25 Wed 7:40-10:25 Thu 4:55-7:40-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (G) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Sun 4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:10-10 Wed 4-6:45 Thu 4:20-10:45
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 2:20-5:10-7:55-10:55 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:45-10:30



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Cynthia Nixon ALL IMAGES GETTY

Charlotte will try to twist Miranda's arm to complete Sex and the City trilogy

While Cynthia Nixon may have shot down the idea of a third Sex and the City film, co-star Kristin Davis is still holding out hope. "I'm going to have a little talk with Cynthia the next time I see her," Davis tells Haute Living magazine. "I don't think (a third film) is a pipe dream. There is a discussion. People talk about it amongst the people who are the players, but I don't know if it will come together. It would be very exciting if it did."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Paltrow's festive Kors collection too rich for most people's blood

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

Last month,we found out that Gwyneth Paltrow and Michael Kors would create a special holiday collection for Goop, Paltrow's lifestyle site. Well, that day has come, people. The line — which consists of some of the Oscar-winner's favourite Kors pieces, but updated — debuts on the site Thursday and includes a high-end suede tote, an oversized gold watch, leather smoking slippers, a cashmere cape, a grey structured peplum sweater and a military-inspired wool coat. But like the clothes you imagine Gwynnie creating her organic meals in, these threads veer on the luxe side. The items range in price from $145 for a bracelet to $2,595 for the cosy cape. Something a bit more universal: Kors' grandmother's recipe for easy-to-make butter cookies.

Britney Spears

Hey critics! Don't you dare burst Britney's bubble

The reviews for Britney Spears' new album, Britney Jean, have been pretty terrible — but Spears herself has no idea. "Britney's manager, Larry Rudolph, and her father, Jamie, won't allow her to see any of the bad reviews," a source tells Radar Online. "Britney doesn't even have access to the Internet and lives in a bubble. Her team will allow her to believe that the album is being well-received. No one wants to upset Britney. If she were to read anything negative, it could send her into a bad tailspin, and both Larry and Jamie know that can't happen with her upcoming shows in Vegas about to launch."

Liquid Assets

Liqueur in the spotlight

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

The term liqueur covers a lot of ground — from decadent, cream-based combinations, all the way to secret blends of herbs and spices. Most have a life outside of the holiday season, but I bet that for the majority of you buying a bottle in December is your yearly liqueur fix.

There's something sad about that. The liqueur market has never been more vibrant, venturing into packaging and flavour innovation territory any other booze category would fear to tread.

Not that the old standbys are resting on their liquid laurels. Bailey's (the Irish king of Christmas drinking) has introduced new flavoured family members and even Grand Marnier has dipped its cap in the pool of fruity expression, creating a special series of alternative versions.

Never to be outdone, Mexico's Kahlúa Limited Edition Gingerbread Liqueur (375 ml, $15.49 - $16.99) starts with the classic mix of rum and Arabica coffee and then adds gingerbread, nutmeg, cinnamon and clove. It results in a seasonal treat that's great over ice or as fuel in your favourite cup of joe. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Gingerbread graduates to a grown-up torte

Almond-Chocolate Gingerbread Torte. This decadent treat features the quintessential holiday flavour with chocolate and almonds

This recipe serves 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients

Chocolate Ganache Glaze
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) whipping cream
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) light corn syrup
- 250 ml (1 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Cake
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) molasses
- 2 eggs
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 10 ml (2 tsp) ground ginger
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) allspice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) buttermilk
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) toasted slivered almonds, divided
- Chocolate Ganache Glaze
- 75 to 125 ml (1/3 to 1/2 cup) apricot or peach preserves

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Coat two 23-cm (9-inch) round layer cake pans with vegetable spray.

2. In a mixer bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Beat in sugar, then molasses to blend thoroughly. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in vanilla.

3. In another bowl, sift dry ingredients together. Beat into butter mixture just to blend. Mix in buttermilk. Coarsely chop 75 ml (1/3 cup) of the almonds; mix into batter. Pour into prepared pans, dividing equally and smoothing tops. Bake in centre of oven for about 15 minutes, just until springy to the touch. Let cool in pans on racks for 5 minutes, then turn out onto racks to cool completely.

4. Meanwhile, prepare glaze. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring whipping cream and corn syrup to a boil. Remove from heat and mix in chocolate chips until smooth. Let cool until mixture is thick enough to spread on cake. Set aside.

5. Place one cake layer on a serving plate; cover with preserves and drizzle with glaze. Top with remaining cake layer. Spread glaze evenly over top and sides of torte. Garnish with remaining almonds. Let glaze set for at least 1 hour before serving. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

EDIT 3

TELL US YOUR TOP PICKS OF 2013
• Join the Metropolitan Panel to participate in our survey December 6th - 8th and share your favourites of 2013
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Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Holiday market

The Creekside Community Centre (1 Athletes Way) sets the stage for this weekend's popular gift and craft show (Dec. 7th and 8th) courtesy of Portobello West. It's their final event for 2013 and plans to be bigger and better than ever. Shop around and scoop up unique finds from 75 local artisans with products ranging from art to fashion, accessories, jewellery, sweets and treats for everyone on your list. The first 25 attendees will receive a free and fully loaded swag bag. Visit portobellowest.com.

Recently opened (1336 Lonsdale Ave.)

The North Shore's Lower Lonsdale area has recently welcomed a new culinary addition to the growing mix of offerings with the arrival of The Little District (1336 Lonsdale Ave.), sibling to popular brasserie, The District. Offering up new dishes, the space is styled after a prohibition-era Manhattan hangout. Diners can meld into the relaxed atmosphere while indulging in a mix of European comfort foods, tapas plates and Southern cuisine. Get a taste online here: thelittledistrict.com.

Have a crafty Christmas

Get crafty this Christmas and head out to Toque (7th, 303 E. 8th) at the Western Front this weekend. With plenty of posh picks on offer, grab designer goods courtesy of Erin Templeton, Draw Me A Lion, Henderson Dry Goods and more. Local artisans will be on hand with sweet and savoury offerings (Cocolico, 1UP Caramels) as well creative artists such as AW by Andrea Wong and Anita Sikma. This annual fundraiser is top notch, admission is by donation. Visit touque2013.tumblr.com.

Grand reopening

Having been recently restored, Vancouver's York Theatre (639 Commercial Dr.), which was originally built in 1913, is set to re-open with a bang this weekend. Celebrations kick off with a gala event and world premier of An East Van Panto. After having been rescued from scheduled demolition, this 100-year-old building will house The Cultch's opening shows and other community events, providing a theatrical venue steeped in history. Visit thecultch.com.

The 5k Santa Shuffle

Lace up this Saturday for a cause and support The Salvation Army in its quest to assist families and individuals in need during the Christmas season and throughout the year. The annual 5k Santa Shuffle Fun Run & 1k Elf Walk is the perfect excuse to dress up in red, don that ugly sweater and enjoy the outdoors alongside hundreds of other participants. The event is held across North America and takes place at Lumberman's Arch in picturesque Stanley Park. Registration is $20. Visit santashuffle.ca.

BLIM 10th Anniversary

This Saturday night, make your way over to Vivo (1965 Main St.) and celebrate a decade of BLIM highlights alongside special guests, DJs and performers. As one of Chinatown's original purveyors of artistic cool, BLIM has long been a family-run craft facility for budding artists and entrepreneurs. To mark 10 years, they're throwing a party to remember. Check out RUKUS, Ultimate Lover and Darwin Meyers alongside plenty of other DJs and more. Visit blim.ca.

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Thumb through these choices for the bibliophile on your list — PAGE 34

Playing in the snow is a favourite pastime for boys of all ages — PAGE 36

Real Christmas trees enhance the senses during the holidays — PAGE 37

19 shopping days left

NATALIA KIRICHENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOLIDAY 2013 m gift guide

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Holiday Inn

Season's readings

Kobo Aura HD — $169.99.

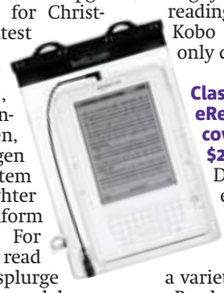
BookBook Hardback Leather Case for MacBook — $79.99 and up, clockwise, from right, iCoffee — $183.99, Classic Novel eReader covers — $24 and up, and Kindle Paperwhite — $139 and up.

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Don't just buy the bookworm on your list another paperback. Think outside the box and get them some tech they can use to enhance their reading experiences.

Kindle Paperwhite — $139 and up

Amazon's popular eReader has undergone an upgrade, just in time for Christmas. The latest model features a faster processor, higher contrast screen, and a next-gen lighting system that is brighter and more uniform than before. For those who read on the go, splurge for the 3G model, which lets you download books without Wi-Fi and no monthly fees.



Kobo Aura HD — $169.99

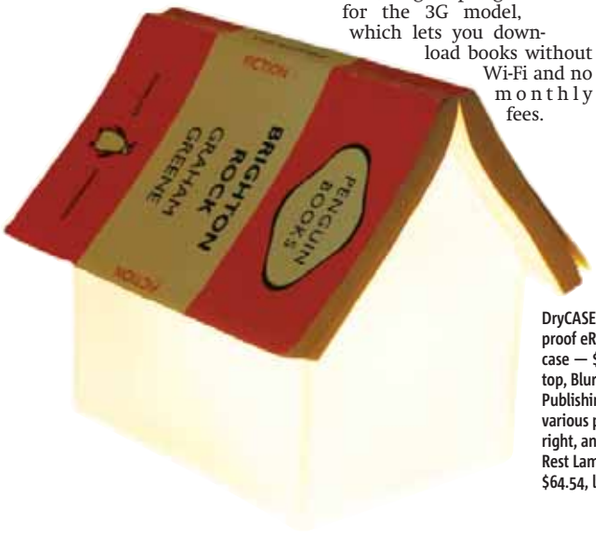
Text so crisp and clear you will forget you are reading on an electronic device. Kobo Aura HD features an ultra-high resolution display with 265 dpi, higher than most eReaders on the market. It also features 10 styles of font, letting you customize your reading experience. Kobo remains a Wi-Fi only device.

Classic Novel eReader covers — $24 and up

Disguise any eReader as a classic novel. These U.K.-made covers come in a variety of sizes for multiple eReaders and span a wide variety of literary styles. Not only are these covers stylish, they also protect your valuable eReader from scratches.

DryCASE waterproof eReader case — $66.98

Know someone who likes to take their eReader in the bathtub? How about the beach? These vacuum sealed pouches protect your eReader (among other devices) from dirt, sand, and, most importantly, water, while still allowing you to use them. They also have built-in headphone and microphone jacks. Not the sexiest case, but it beats using a plastic bag.



DryCASE waterproof eReader case — $66.98, top, Blurb Self Publishing — various prices, right, and Book Rest Lamp — $64.54, left.

BookBook Hardback Leather Case for MacBook — $79.99 and up

These stylish cases disguise your MacBook or MacBook Air as an antique leather bound book. Each case is made from genuine leather and is hand-distressed so no two cases look the same. When the case is closed your computer looks just like a book, helping to mask it from the eyes of thieves.

Book Rest Lamp — $64.54

Place your favourite book on top of the light base to create a stylish reading light. Or simply use the base as a bookmark. The frosted glass helps disperse light, making it perfect by which to read.

iCoffee — $183.99

What goes better with a good book than a great cup of coffee. iCoffee moves the grinds using six rotational water jets as it steams them to extract a bold, rich, sweet flavour. You can watch it all take place through the brewing window. It is unlike any other coffee maker on the market. Ships from the U.S.

Blurb Self Publishing — Various prices

A great gift for the creative person on your list. Blurb lets anyone publish a novel, cookbook, photo book or magazine through its online service. Upload the text and photos, pick a layout and wait as the finished professional product is mailed to you. Gift card options are available.

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Santa's stash for teen boys

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Razor A Lighted Scooter, $49.99, available at Target, target.ca.

Stormtrooper Vinyl Bobblehead, $11.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Snow Crossbow, $44.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

The Mortal Instruments Box Set, $49.99, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Pick a Christmas tree that makes the cut

Real Christmas trees can help enhance the holiday experience. PRESSMASTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Choices. Firs have taken over from pine trees when it comes to real trees in the home

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

All Christmas trees are beautiful — even Charlie Brown's scrawny little twig was a winner once it was all jacked up with decorations.

But if you are a bit fussier, here is a list of some of the most popular trees with the help of Arthur Loewen, president of the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association.

At one time, the pine tree was the No. 1 holiday tree, but this wide, heavy, long-needled tree has been replaced in popularity by the fir, a lighter, thinner, short-needled tree grown in many varieties across the country.

Native to Canada's East Coast, the Balsam fir is a nice-looking, hardy tree that sells for a relatively good price.

"It keeps moderately well, has rigid stems that don't sag when you hang decorations, and it has a thin trunk, which makes it easier to handle and put into a stand," Loewen said.

Gaining in popularity is the Fraser fir, also found primarily in Eastern Canada, but also in the west. It's pricier for a few reasons.

"It's the best needle keeper when you bring it inside," Loewen said. "It's lightweight, narrow, has the most rigid branches, and tends to last longer than the Balsam.

But the big reason for the extra cost is that there is more work in raising a Fraser fir to harvest. They take longer to grow than other firs, they grow best in dry areas and are more prone to disease and insects.

In the West, the Douglas fir tops the list.

"It matures quickly, so it's not as expensive to grow," Loewen said.

However, it doesn't last as long and the branches do sag a bit more than the more expensive Noble fir, also native to the West.

"The Noble fir is much like the Fraser, except it has a bluish colour," Loewen said.

Priced like the Fraser, this "king of the Christmas trees" grows slowly but does well as a holiday tree.

Christmas Tree Day

The Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association has declared Dec. 7 as National Christmas Tree Day. The following are some facts and figures from the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association:

- The total value of the Christmas tree exportations (wholesale value) in 2011 was $1.7 million.
- Canada harvests approximately 2.5 millions trees annually
- More than 34,600 hectares (76,700 acres) were used for growing Christmas trees in Canada in 2011.
- There were 2,381 Christmas tree plantations in Canada in 2001.
- Each hectare produces enough oxygen for 40 people.
- For more about National Christmas Tree Day, visit canadianchristmastrees.ca.

What's on your wish list?

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Holiday glamour

Foxy Originals Downtown Deco Empire Necklace, $52, available at Foxyoriginals.com.

Swarovski Knot Ring, $120, available at Swarovski, swarovski.ca.

Tiffany sterling silver Atlas Lariat, $275, available at Tiffany, tiffany.ca.

Baublebar Crystal Diadem Drops earrings, $34 US, available at baublebar.com.

Banana Republic Turqoise Statement Necklace, $134, available at Banana Republic, bananarepublic.ca.

Swatch Escaille watch with plastic tortoise shell strap, $75, available at department stores, swatch.com.

Haitian Hand-Beaded Necklace, $100, available at worldvision.ca/gifts or via 1-800-844-7993.

Believe crystal bracelets with grosgrain ribbon, $105 each, available at Mika Designs, 514-748-5630.

Festive flicks to enjoy with the family

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

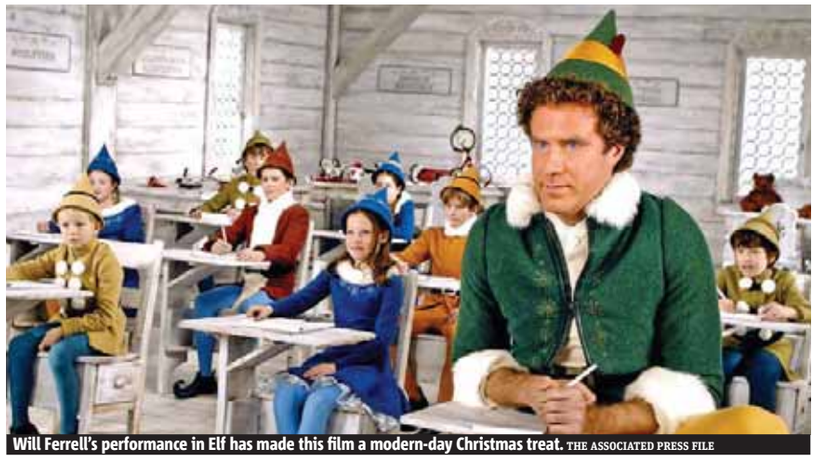
It's time to settle in with the family for a night of holiday fun watching your favourite festive videos.

Metro asked Dave Bullard, purchasing manager for Movie Experts Inc. in Toronto, to choose some popular movie titles for the holiday season.

Home Alone (1990)
Starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, and Daniel Stern. An eight-year-old boy, accidentally left behind by his family, must defend his home against idiotic burglars. Mischievous, almost cartoonish, fun for all ages. Don't miss John Candy as Gus Polinski, polka king of the Midwest.

Elf (2003)
Starring Will Ferrell, James Caan, and Bob Newhart. The story of a young child who was adopted by Christmas elves, then returns to the human world to find his father and his true identity. Ferrell's performance as an oversized elf has made this film a modern-day Christmas treat.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)
Starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, and Juliette Lewis. The Griswold family gathers for Christmas where nothing seems to go right. Shocking at times and quite hilarious, it's a Christmas movie that has become regular holiday viewing for many.



Will Ferrell's performance in Elf has made this film a modern-day Christmas treat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A Christmas Story (1983)
Starring Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, and Melinda Dillon. A boy's yearning to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas and all the trials and tribulations that go into getting one. The film just has so many memorable movie moments, like the tongue stuck on the pole, that are hard to forget.

The Santa Clause (1994)
Starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, and Wendy Crewson. A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Clause and, in doing so, assumes the mantle of being jolly old St. Nick. Allen shines as a reluctant Santa Clause, so much so that it spawned two sequels.

Scrooged (1988)
Starring Bill Murray, Karen Allen, and John Forsythe. An updated take on the classic A Christmas Story, with Murray taking on the role of a wicked man with little time left to change his ways. A fresh take on a holiday classic with loads of cameo appearances. Murray is slimy and reprehensible, which makes him the perfect Scrooge.

Scoot & Kassie's Christmas Adventure (2013)
Starring Luke Perry, Ariana Bagley, and Taylor Negron. New this holiday season, Kassie and her friends have organized a charity concert for less-fortunate kids, but when two crooks steal the cash, Kassie's pet dog Scoot leads an unlikely group of heroes to catch the bad guys and save Christmas. A heartwarming charmer that will have the whole family cheering.

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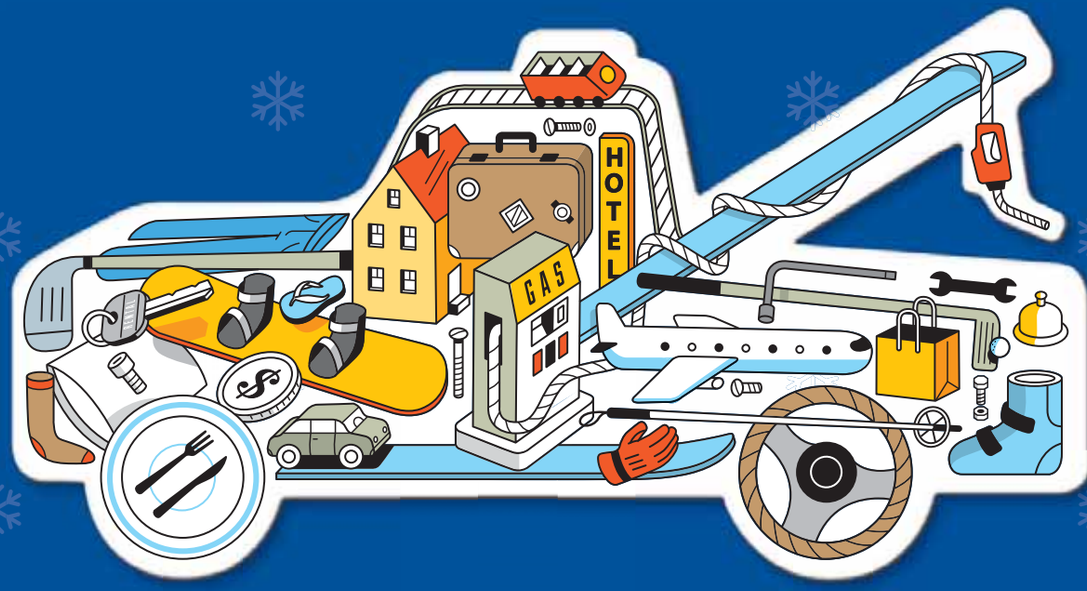
Girls Classic Cardigan, $19, available at Joe Fresh, joefresh.com.
Mixed Glitter-Toe High-Tops, $27.94, available at Old Navy, oldnavy.ca
Pants, Isabel Pourant Collection, $49.95, available at H&M stores, hm.com/ca.



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126-piece All Media Ultimate Art Set, $60, available at Michael's, michaels.com.

Tassel Wrap Journal, $18, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

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Ho Ho Ho hobbies

Mother of Pearl Magnifying Glass, $19.50, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca

Rona Glue Gun, $5.99, available at Rona stores, rona.ca.

Collection Canada 2013 Coffee Table Book, $72.95, available in Canada Post offices, canadapost.ca.

Eight-inch Splashing Game Fish Clock, $23.95, available at urbannaturestore.ca

Well-groomed merry gentlemen

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

The latest and greatest for good hair, comfortable skin, easy grooming and a fantastic smile, too.

Aveda Invati thickening hair care — exfoliating shampoo, thickening conditioner and scalp revitalizer. From $30 to $69 via Aveda salons, spas and stores.

Biotherm Homme Special-Edition Skincare gift set ($52 via biotherm.ca) and **Rob Stewart's Revolution** ($15 via Target, Futureshop and therevolutionmovie.com) are sold separately, but together make a great underwater adventure theme gift. Both contribute to charities that protect global ocean resources.

Braun CoolTec Shaver is the first dry electric razor that cools skin during use to reduce shaving irritation. From $149.99 at London Drugs and Best Buy. See braun.com for more retailers.

Clarisonic Aria is the latest version of the lauded skin care cleansing system. It's more streamlined, travel-friendly, has three speeds and comes in black. $225 at Shoppers Drug Mart beauty boutiques and Sephora.

Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Moisturizer wakes skin up with antioxidants vitamins C and E as well as soy. Heavy Lifting Firming Moisturizer helps get rid of flaky patches, minimizes fine lines and improves elasticity and firmness. $30 and $40 at Kiehls stores and kiehls.ca.

Lush Dirty Gift Set is a zippy fresh, wake-him-up trio of Dirty Springwash shower gel, Dirty Body Spray and refreshing Dirty Toothy Tabs. $44.95 at Lush stores and lush.ca.

Micropedi Man Rapid Hard Skin Remover swiftly and painlessly buffs away rough, dry skin to leave feet smooth and comfortable. $49.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart.

Shiseido Man Active Energizing Concentrate is a quick-absorb fluid that controls oil and shine, and firms and brightens skin, too. $70 at Hudson's Bay and thebay.com.

Sonicare Black Diamond-Clean Electric Toothbrush delivers 31,000 brush strokes in two minutes, whiter teeth in seven days, and improved gum health in two weeks. Comes with USB rechargeable case. $229.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Target and London Drugs.

Tay Essential Oils Bar Soap are long-lasting, triple-milled, skin-softening natural soaps scented with zesty bitter orange and orange twig. $16 each at select boutiques; tayskin.com.

Aveda Invati, clockwise, from left, Lush Dirty Gift Set, Tay Essential Oils Bar Soap, Clarisonic Aria, Shiseido Man Active Energizing Concentrate, Braun CoolTec Shaver, Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Moisturizer, and Micropedi Man Rapid Hard Skin Remover.

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FedEx Office

Try to pick a Christmas tree with a strong green colour and noticeable fragrance. SYDA PRODUCTIONS

Guidelines. Shedding light on tree safety

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

Many Canadians look forward to the annual ritual of trimming the Christmas tree with favourite decorations and strings of lights.

In order to enjoy your beautifully appointed tree safely, follow these guidelines from the Canada Safety Council:

- Get a freshly cut tree, which will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard. Try to pick one with a strong green colour and noticeable fragrance.
- Always test for freshness before buying; a tree with a high moisture content is safer. Very few needles should fall when the butt of the tree is tapped on the ground. Needles should bend, not break, and the stump should be sticky with resin.
- Place the tree in a stand that will hold two to three litres of water and top it up daily. Make sure it's always immersed in water. If water drops below the trunk the stem may reseal itself, requiring a fresh cut. Use a stand that has widespread legs for stable balance.
- Don't set your tree up near a heat source such as a radiator, fireplace, heating duct, television or sunny window. It also shouldn't block doors or windows.
- Choose decorations that are flame-retardant, non-combustible and non-conductive. Don't hang metallic ornaments — if they make contact with defective wiring, they could become a shock hazard.
- If there are young children or pets in your home, avoid hanging small decorations, which could cause choking if swallowed.
- Never put lighted candles on the tree.
- Use light strings and sets that have been certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
- Use the proper lights for the environment. For example, indoor sets shouldn't be used outside because they lack weatherproof connections, and some outdoor lights burn too hot inside.
- Don't overload electrical wall outlets; it's an unsafe practice that could cause a fire.
- Inspect cords before using them to make sure they are CSA certified and they don't have frayed or exposed wire.
- Remove the tree 10 to 14 days after you set it up. After that length of time in a heated room, even the freshest tree can start to dry out.

Choose decorations that are flame-retardant, non-combustible and non-conductive for your Christmas tree. COLOURBOX

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Keeping active

Compact Curling, $19.99, available at independent toy retailers, borgfeldt.ca.

K2 Entity Snow Helmet, $61, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

Yoga Mat, $20.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Halti Kirri Jacket, $130, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

SPORTS Bike Cap,$14.95, available at chic-savvy.com.

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Cat DJ Scratch Pad, $35, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Kitty's Christmas

Pet Stocking, $6, available at Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca

Pet Valu Premium Catnip, $1.99-$5.29, available at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

KYJen Christmas Antlers, $4.99-$7.99, available at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

Jump Sushi Box With Catnip Toys, $11.99, available at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

Motorola video pet monitor, $299.99-$399.99, available at PetSmart, petsmart.com

World juniors

Reinhart won't make team on bias: Coach McGill

On paper, it might appear as if Ryan McGill would have a bias toward Sam Reinhart heading into Team Canada's world junior selection camp.

McGill is the head coach of the Kootenay Ice, the Western Hockey League team Reinhart captains, and is an assistant coach with Team Canada in the 2014 IIHF World Junior Championship in Malmo, Sweden.

Reinhart, a product of the Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver who some have projected as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2014 NHL Draft, was one of 15 forwards named to the camp, which begins next Thursday when players arrive in Toronto.

McGill understands the questions about any potential bias he might have for Reinhart in his quest for a spot on Team Canada, but maintains it's not an issue.

"If he was an average player, yeah I would. But his game speaks for itself. Whether I have bias or not doesn't matter," said McGill on Wednesday.

Point production has never been a concern, ever since he posted 28 goals and 62 points as a rookie in 2011-12.

He has 47 points through 31 games this season.

Against the Giants, he assisted on Kootenay's second goal, a sweet tic-tac-toe play, by firing a perfect cross-ice pass to Luke Philp, who fed Austin Vetterl in front for the tap-in. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Icy, cold concerns for Heritage Classic

NHL. Game at BC Place Stadium could be met by many adverse weather conditions, but dome ensures match will be played

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Thursday's weather in Vancouver — sun breaking through the clouds and temperatures hovering just below freezing — would've made for perfect conditions for an outdoor hockey game.

But Mother Nature can be unpredictable.

We'll see what she brings when the Heritage Classic takes place between the Vancouver Canucks and Ottawa Senators at BC Place Stadium on March 2.

On Thursday, a number of dignitaries from the NHL, NHLPA, CBC, Tim Hortons and the Canucks — including general manager Mike Gillis and players Kevin Bieksa, Ryan Kesler and Daniel Sedin — were on hand at BC Place for a media event hyping up the Heritage Classic.

The roof was open, and a cold winter wind blew through the stadium during the proceedings.

"I think if it can be this kind of weather that day — that would be perfect. It's kind of cold but that date it could be anything," said Sedin.

Weather conditions — be it snow, rain or extreme cold — in past Heritage Classics in Canada and Winter Classics in the U.S., have helped provide memorable moments ingrained in hockey's modern lore.

But this is Vancouver, a city made famous by many things, including rain. The temperature on March 2 could be mild or cold.

This game will take place in a stadium with a retractable roof, which can be closed in the event of rain.

"We have played with a little bit of sprinkling (rain) in the past," said NHL chief operating officer John Collins.

"I think it's a game-time decision that will be made by the hockey (operations) people. But the nice thing about a retractable roof stadium like this one is you have certainty you're going to be able to play the game."

Ice conditions for a temporary rink are also a concern.

"I'm sure they're going to do everything they can to get the ice really good," said Sedin, "as long as it's not dangerous for the players."

Canucks forward Daniel Sedin attempts to shoot a puck through the uprights at a Heritage Classic media event at BC Place Stadium on Thursday. The 2014 Heritage Classic takes place between the Canucks and Ottawa Senators at BC Place on March 2. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Coyotes in town

The Vancouver Canucks host the Phoenix Coyotes at Rogers Arena on Friday.

- The Canucks trail the Coyotes by one point for the fourth spot in the Pacific Division, and can move ahead of Phoenix in the standings with a win.
- The Canucks will be without forward Alex Burrows, who had surgery on a broken jaw suffered last weekend, and defenceman Alex Edler, who is out indefinitely with a lower-body injury.

4 SPORTS

Gillis' trade hand could be forced

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ronnie Shuker
vancouver@metronews.ca

GM Mike Gillis is nothing if not patient, to a fault sometimes (see: Luongo, Roberto). He has never been quick to pull the trade trigger or pound the panic button, but that will change this season. After all, 2013-14 is a referendum on his job.

And it's not looking good, as Vancouver sits fifth in the Pacific behind powerhouses San Jose, Anaheim and Los Angeles, as well as a plucky Phoenix club. Even with Tuesday's win over Nashville, the Canucks have won just six games since Oct. 29, second fewest in the Western Conference ahead of only Calgary. At 6-6-4 during that time, their current slide is just a gradual decline, but it's been accentuated by being stuck in the NHL's Division of Death.

Gillis' trigger finger will get a little itchier a whole lot quicker if the Canucks fall further out of the playoff race, because he won't be able to hoodwink ownership again into keeping him around should they miss the post-season. There's no scapegoat this time, no sacrificial lamb (i.e. no Alain Vigneault) to perform substitutionary atonement for Gillis' sins as general manager.

With a five-year contract, coach John Tortorella is going nowhere. And neither is the bulk of the team. Except for Chris Tanev, every player making more than $1 million is signed for 2014-15, and most are inked long term. The Sedins, Ryan Kesler, Alexandre Burrows, Chris Higgins, Jannik Hansen, Alexander Edler, Kevin Bieksa, Jason Garrison, Dan Hamhuis, Eddie Lack and Luongo — all are on the books through 2015-16 or beyond, and every one (save for Edler and Lack) will be 30 or older this time next season.

Should Vancouver fail to make the playoffs, it's all on Gillis. That means he has to be all-in this season. If the Canucks continue to tread water, as they have the past five weeks, expect him to make a big move. He's not playing with house money, however. Gillis can't subtract anyone of significance off the roster, which leaves only prospects — Brendan Gaunce, Bo Horvat, Hunter Shinkaruk — and draft picks to peddle.

This is where it could get ugly. The organization already has the second-worst farm system in the NHL, as ranked by THN's 2013 Future Watch edition, so dealing any of these chips would be a win-now/lose-later scenario, at best.

Either this ship will have to right itself internally or Gillis will have to make a significant trade at some point. If he does, he'll be sacrificing the team's future to save his job now.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	30	18	9	3	82	63	39
Boston	28	18	8	2	76	57	38
Tampa Bay	28	17	10	1	79	68	35
Detroit	29	14	8	7	81	79	35
Toronto	29	15	11	3	80	79	33
Ottawa	29	11	14	4	83	95	26
Florida	29	8	16	5	66	97	21
Buffalo	29	6	21	2	49	88	14

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	30	20	9	1	94	67	41
Washington	28	14	12	2	83	82	30
NY Rangers	29	15	14	0	65	72	30
Carolina	29	12	12	5	66	81	29
Philadelphia	28	13	13	2	63	68	28
New Jersey	29	11	12	6	64	71	28
Columbus	28	11	14	3	68	80	25
NY Islanders	29	8	16	5	75	101	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	30	20	6	4	108	84	44
St. Louis	27	19	5	3	96	61	41
Minnesota	30	17	8	5	74	70	39
Colorado	26	19	7	0	78	60	38
Dallas	27	13	9	5	76	79	31
Winnipeg	30	13	13	4	80	87	30
Nashville	29	13	13	3	65	83	29

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	28	19	4	5	97	67	43
Anaheim	30	18	7	5	93	80	41
Los Angeles	29	18	7	4	76	62	40
Phoenix	28	16	8	4	92	90	36
Vancouver	30	15	10	5	80	78	35
Calgary	27	10	13	4	74	94	24
Edmonton	30	10	18	2	83	103	22

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

Thursday's results
Toronto 3 Dallas 2 (OT)
Tampa Bay 3 Ottawa 1
Florida 5 Winnipeg 2
Edmonton 8 Colorado 2
NY Rangers 3 Buffalo 1
Pittsburgh 5 San Jose 1
Carolina 5 Nashville 2
St. Louis 5 NY Islanders 1
Montreal 2 Boston 1
Minnesota 4 Chicago 3
Wednesday's results
Calgary 4 Phoenix 1
Montreal 4 New Jersey 3 (SO)
Philadelphia 6 Detroit 3
Friday's games — All times Eastern
San Jose at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Dallas, 2 p.m.
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at NY Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
NY Islanders at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	15	23	38
Malkin, Pgh	7	30	37
Kane, Chi	16	16	32
Getzlaf, Ana	14	18	32
Tavares, NYI	11	21	32
Steen, StL	20	11	31
Perry, Ana	16	15	31
Ovechkin, Wash	21	9	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Thornton, SJ	5	25	30
Kunitz, Pgh	14	14	28
Couture, SJ	10	18	28
H. Sedin, Van	7	21	28
Karlsson, Ott	7	20	27

Thursday's games not included

MLS PLAYOFFS

MLS CUP

Saturday's game
Kansas City vs. Salt Lake, 4 p.m., EST

NFL

Thursday's result
Jacksonville 27 Houston 20
Sunday's games — All times Eastern
Kansas City at Washington, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Miami at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at New England, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Monday's game
Dallas at Chicago, 8:40 p.m.

NBA

Thursday's results
New York 113 Brooklyn 83
L.A. Clippers 101 Memphis 81
Chicago 107 Miami 87
Wednesday's results
Atlanta 107 L.A. Clippers 97
Phoenix 97 Houston 88
Dallas 100 New Orleans 97
Indiana 95 Utah 86
Portland 111 Oklahoma City 104
Cleveland 98 Denver 88
Detroit 105 Milwaukee 98
San Antonio vs. Minnesota, ppd.
Friday's games — All times Eastern
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 7 p.m.
Denver at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Denver at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Indiana at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 10 p.m.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may be a nice guy but most likely you will refuse to come to the rescue of someone who is in distress today. It may seem heartless but it's the only way they are going to learn.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Too often you have held back while those with considerably less talent have achieved the kind of success that should have been yours. Shed your inhibitions and let the world see what a star you are.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may be under pressure to apologize for something you said to a friend or colleague but is that wise? Not if you truly meant it. Besides, why give them the impression that you can be easily swayed?

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may be behind in your schedule but don't worry about it. If anything, you should be aiming to conserve your energy now — if only because by the early part of next week you will be working harder than ever.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There are only so many hours in a day, so identify your priorities and don't try to do everything at once. Aim for quality rather than quantity in all things at all times. One way or another, it will be enough.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have reason to be annoyed with someone but because you are an agreeable individual, you may allow them to wriggle out of it by saying the right words. That'd be a mistake.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's not like you to look back and wish things had been different but that may be your attitude today. OK, so you could have done a lot of things differently and some things better but that's life.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Everything is going according to plan and even though you may not get all the things you desire today, you will certainly get all the things you need. The cosmos, as always, are looking over and looking after you.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may not be the best in certain areas but in one field of endeavor you have no equals and that is what you should be focusing on now. Don't try to be all things to all men.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Close your ears to criticism and don't waste time trying to get even with those who have let you down or said hurtful things. Time is too precious to waste on petty people .

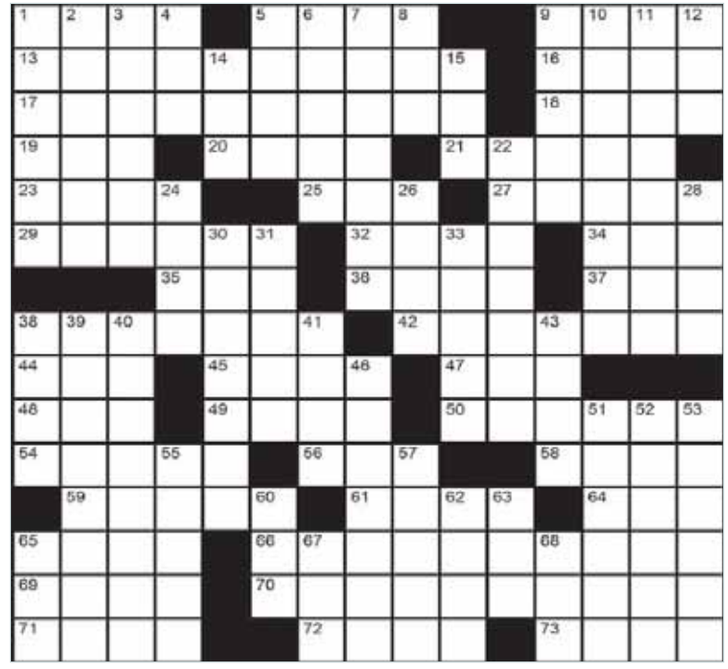
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no point complaining about a certain person's behaviour when what they are doing now is what they did yesterday and the day before that. It's in their nature, so either accept it or move away from their influence.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You need more fun in your life but you won't get it doing the same old things with the same old people. The planets are urging you to be more adventurous. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

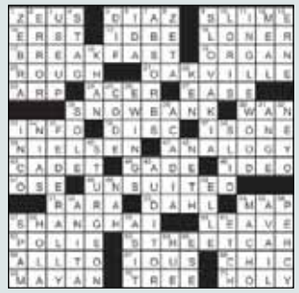
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Abodes-in-buildings, e.g.
5. Labels
9. Biblical boats
13. E! Canada host who previously hosted "So You Think You Can Dance Canada": 2 wds.
16. Bulk containers
17. London, ON's nickname: 2 wds.
18. Meat cut
19. Univ. paper
20. Incite
21. Be an active volcano
23. Old music high notes
25. Pick-up-sticks game
27. "__ There Yet?" (2005): 2 wds.
29. Teeth-related
32. Head's holder
34. Headed
35. "Bravo!"
36. Ex-VP Al
37. Papua New Guinea seaport
38. "The Daily Show" host Jon
42. London, ON university
44. Legume
45. Lady Gaga song
47. Lady's man
48. Computer key
49. Actress Ms. Cannon
50. Does canine work
54. __ beaucoup!
56. Veggie of Japan
58. Venus de __ (Ancient statue)
59. Lost & __
61. Waning waves
64. "Platoon" (1986) war, for short
65. Designer, Christian __ (b.1905 - d.1957)
66. PM Harper's hockey book: 3 wds.
69. Prefix meaning 'High'
70. Canadian actress who starred in 1933's "42nd Street": 2 wds.
71. "__, __ have you decided yet?" (Er, like, did you make up your mind?)
72. Wall St. landmark, commonly
73. Fewer

Down
1. Bruce Wayne's butler
2. Celebrity magazine
3. Scottish pattern
4. "__-Devil" (1989)
5. Musician Mr. Puente
6. Rio Tinto __ (Aluminum company based in Montreal)
7. Soaring
8. Band's performance
9. "It's all _ __." (Foggy memory comment)
10. Canadian painter, Jean Paul __ (b.1923 - d.2002)
11. Sweaters and scarves
12. US tax ID
14. Food additive
15. Deli bread
22. Makes much money: 2 wds.
24. Pack
26. Cat call
28. Apple/snake lieu
30. 1992 Disney animated flick
31. "Madame Curie" (1943) director, Mervyn __
33. Salad green
38. Internet junk
39. Cinematic federal agency, __ Canada
40. Have carrots or potatoes, basically: 2 wds.
41. "Heart and Soul" '80s group
43. Hair salon task
46. BC city in the northern Okanagan
51. Conclusion
52. Scotiabank Saddledome team
53. Actress/entrepreneur Suzanne
55. Oddity
57. Does as instructed
60. __ es Salaam, Tanzania
62. Create cupcakes
63. Fr. holy woman
65. Brother's sis, to Mom [abbr.]
67. Son-of-a-__
68. Collective Soul song

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4			6		9		1
			5		4		3	2
	7	3			5		8	
			2		6			
	8		1			4	9	
9	2		7		1			
8		6		9			7	3

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	4	7	3	6	8	2	5
2	5	6	1	8	4	3	7	9
3	8	7	9	2	5	1	6	4
6	4	9	3	7	1	5	8	2
5	7	8	2	4	9	6	3	1
1	3	2	5	6	8	9	4	7
8	6	5	4	9	7	2	1	3
7	2	1	6	5	3	4	9	8
4	9	3	8	1	2	7	5	6

Today
0°/-6°
Sunny
Saturday
-1°/-5°
Partly cloudy
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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